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EEC members not in the mood for compromise

Kieler Nachrichten

The Nine are not of a mind to compromise at the moment, neither in their attitude towards the new Israeli government nor on thermonuclear fusion and the Jet project nor on human rights.

Yet when compromise is not on the agenda the Common Market tends to have a helpless look. This is particularly apparent where economic recovery within the European Community is concerned — an objective which really does call for joint endeavour.

Self-interest prevails, even towards Israel, which accounts for the most trenchant Middle East policy statement ever framed by the EEC — a statement, incidentally, which fully accords with current US policy.

The Palestinians, the Nine now claim, have a right to a homeland — a straightforward term which the EEC translators have chosen studioulsy to circumvent in the German-language version of the policy statement, intriguingly enough.

But the Common Market leaders are not prepared to say where, in their view, this homeland might be situated within the context of a Middle East peace settlement, although they are doubtless thinking in terms of the West Bank.

The latest Common Market statement on the Middle East testifies to a significant shift in the EEC's viewpoint, even though the Nine reiterate the Israelis' right to live in peace within secure and acknowledged frontiers.

The borders envisaged clearly do not include, as the Nine see it, the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

This point is put forcibly to the new Isreali government, coupled with a warning to Mr Begin to refrain from either comments or policies of a warlike nature.

Peace talks must on no account and in no way be prejudiced, the Nine note, framing a joint policy that must surely be very much in keeping with Arab wishes.

The Common Market countries are clearly motivated by anxiety lest fighting is resumed in the Middle East and another Arab oil embargo becomes a distinct possibility.

The Nine do not entirely dismiss the idea of participation in a UN peacekeeping force in the Middle East, although they do not, for that matter, go so far as to offer to do so.

This fairly uncompromising joint stand on the Middle East was dictated by what might be termed joint self-interest, whereas national self-interest remains the hallmark of the debate on nuclear fusion research.

Whitehall is not prepared to part company with the Joint European Torus project and insists that Jet stays put at Culham, near Oxford, rather than transferring to Garching, near Munich.

On the other hand Whitehall also refuses to pay its full share of eighteen per cent (as against a transitional fourteen per cent) of the EEC budget from next year. Were Britain only prepared to foot its share of the Brussels bill, a compromise might well prove possible.

Bonn might then, or so it seems, abandon its political misgivings (which are shared, incidentally, by smaller members of the Common Market) and allow Britain to keep Jet.



Britain's Prime Minister James Callaghan, left, with President Giscard d'Estaing of France and this country's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at the EEC summit in London on 29 June (Photo: dpa)

Mind you, the political misgivings are far from trivial. Can such an important nuclear research project be entrusted to a country that evidently still does not fully feel itself to be a member of the EEC?

Can joint nuclear fusion research be left to the tender mercies of a nuclear power which might one day refuse fellow-members of the EEC access to the project because of the military implications?

In view of the many breaches of contract of which the nuclear powers may stand accused (vacillation over uranium supply contracts, for instance), these are questions that cannot idly be dismissed.

Countries such as our own have felt sensitive on nuclear issues ever since the non-proliferation treaty, although Bonn would not dream of admitting the fact.

But this uneasiness has steadily mounted, especially in the wake of President Carter's nuclear policies, and there can be no gainsaying that it is partly responsible for the current Jet dispute.

Hans-Heinz Schlenker

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 July 1977)

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Janos Kadar of Hungary visits Bonn

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Hungarian leader Janos Kadar's three-day official visit to Bonn testifies to the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

This particular item on Bonn's Ostpolitik agenda may have come a little late in the day, but Mr Kadar's visit, originally scheduled for last year, had to be postponed.

The Hungarian leader has paid the West more frequent visits in recent years, calling to mind his country's traditional ties. Can historic friendships survive an ideological reorientation in this way?

There can certainly be little doubt that Hungary postponed the establishment of diplomatic ties with Bonn until December 1973 mainly out of consideration for its allies, especially Czechoslovakia.

Even before formal links were forged, bilateral contacts flourished at many levels. Hungary, unlike other communist countries in Eastern Europe, has an ethnic German minority that was never a political problem.

Hungary's German minority community, which numbers some 200,000 people, has always — since the war, that is — been regarded by the GDR as its responsibility.

Ethnic Germans living in Hungary have not opted en masse to apply for exit permits to start a new life in the West. Occasional instances of families separated by political divisions have invariably been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bonn and Budapest the Foreign Ministers have held regular consultations. In 1974 Walter Scheel

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Hungarian leader Janos Kadar with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn on 4 July (Photo: Sven Simon)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Enthusiastic welcome for Willy Brandt in Poland

When Willy Brandt visited Poland six and a half years ago — on 7 December 1970 — things looked pretty bleak all around, to say the least.

Polish skies were grey and overcast and the people likewise looked serious and morose. There was an invisible barrier between the politicians who were meeting, and the two peoples who were now striving for a new friendship.

Wladyslaw Gomulka and Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Polish Party chief and Prime Minister respectively, Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel, Chancellor and Foreign Minister — none of them knew how things would turn out.

Only one thing was certain: the Bonn Chancellor had come to prepare the way for a new beginning. The Bonn-Warsaw treaty, which included a carefully-couched recognition of the Oder-Neisse frontier, was going to lead to a bright new future.

Now six and a half year later, Brandt was again landing at Warsaw airport — out of a sky filled with clouds, here dark and ominous, there light and fluffy — a symbolically apt picture of ties between the two countries.

A lot had changed in that interim period, and not only the weather. The man who arrived from Bonn was no longer Chancellor nor a type of political pathfinder: stiff-legged and obviously tired, the worried-looking Social Democratic leader stepped out of a special plane laid on by the Polish airline Lot.

There was no one there to greet him from the leaders who met him in 1970; only the urbane Central Committee Secretary Edward Babuich, representing Edward Gierek, the man who a fortnight after the 1970 treaty-signing, became Party leader after a workers' riot.

Willy Brandt did not come as a negotiator — he had no new treaties to offer the Poles, nor could he promise them anything. Admittedly he came with a hand-picked delegation. Chancellery Minister Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski seemed just the right man to make sure that there was a happy medium struck between what could, and what could not be, agreed upon.

Erstwhile Juso leader Karsten Voigt, the darling of the Party Establishment, represented the goodwill of the Party left, who are all for detente.

But Willy Brandt on his own would have sufficed for the Poles, for he is a symbol of political moral values. As one Catholic was heard to say: "Brandt means more to the Polish bishops than some German democrats who call themselves Christians."

The Poles gave Brandt the red carpet treatment. He was treated as a guest of the State. He stayed with his wife Rut in Warsaw in the official guests lodge, not in the Wilanow Palace as in 1970, but comfortably near the city centre.

A guest during dinner at the newly-opened Bonn Ambassador's residence was, besides Babuich, the former Foreign Minister and current Party Secretary Stefan Olszowski, tipped to be the future Prime Minister. Also present was Foreign Trade Minister Olszewski.

For practically a complete day, Brandt was Gierek's guest at Lansk near Allenstein. Previously, only special State guests such President Giscard d'Estaing of France had been invited to this holiday resort set amid woods and lakes.

A second unplanned meeting was agreed on for Warsaw. And a Press conference showed the importance of this visit.

Because Brandt's welcome was not just another routine reception for a foreign politician; not even after six and a *half years of diplomatic relations*. It was not the Party which Brandt leads nor the country which he represented which was being given the friendliest of embraces, it was Brandt himself.

During the meal at the Ambassador's residence, the shrewd Babuich had this to say: "We are a sentimental people. That's why we have not forgotten that it was you who helped us during our long struggle for freedom and independence. You are the personality who is known and honoured throughout this country."

No one has forgotten the time Brandt kneeled down during his 1970 Poland visit. The humility of this gesture is still remembered today. The row at the time — whether the gesture was spontaneous or calculated — today seems petty and small-minded. The gesture had a meaning and this was understood.

Now, six and a half years later, as Brandt drove through Torun, thousands of people lined the streets. Just the rumour that he was coming — spread probably by students of the Copernicus University — was enough to bring people out onto the streets. More than 2,000 waited for hours in front of the Town Hall.

Local Party officials were hesitant to let Brandt mix with the populace, but when he finally managed to take a five-minute walk across the public square, he was greeted with enthusiasm. He was also clapped as he left the Helios hotel.

Applause from the Poles for a German from the Federal Republic of Germany is a better way of gauging the progress that has been made since 1970 than through official hand-outs. This brings new hope of closer relations between the two peoples and a deeper understanding.

That is not to say that the 1970 visit was a failure. Speaking at the Ambassador's residence, Brandt said: "I don't intend to go back on anything I have said. Indeed, I have something to add. If I had done nothing else as a politician than to help in the reconciliation between Poles and Germans, then I feel I would have been a success as a politician in that alone."

Previously when politicians from both States met things looked hopeful for a short time. And now, too, things seem to be looking rosier. But undoubtedly there will be a period of cooler relations again. The ups and downs between both States in recent years are a sign of chronic insecurity.

Both sides have suffered disappointments, and problems within both Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany have jeopardised the gains made in relations. This is particularly true in the political-emotional field, whereas cool-headed trade relations have improved considerably.

The new start was hindered in 1970 by Gomulka's overthrow. His successor Gierek had no feelings one way or the other towards the Germans. For Gierek who spent the worst war years in Belgium, the Germans were of no particular significance. He was indifferent to them except where they could be used in domestic political arguments.

This is why pension compensation, the question of ethnic Gemans wanting to emigrate, and credits to Poland all led to a rapid worsening of Bonn-Warsaw relations.

Only after Gierek realised that Bonn really meant well and recognised the need for bilateral cooperation over detente was he willing to drop his detachment.

During night-long discussions with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Helsinki in 1975, Edward Gierek found a partner who did not shy away from the political facts of history.

However, it has been noted, the Polish Communists are more inclined than German politicians to whip up the feeling if they feel domestic politics make this opportune. Following last summer's strikes, when a new internal Opposition was formed, Gierek and the Press launched an anti-Bonn campaign: a red herring to keep the people occupied.

But on the other hand, *the Opposition* in Bonn also used tactics which caused worry and anxiety among the Poles. And this, despite their support for the Schmidt-Gierek pact.

And because detente didn't seem to be working too well just then, it was easy for Warsaw to play on the one main fear of the Poles: their suspicion of the Germans.

But it has obviously become clear over the past six weeks that the close ties between the two countries can no longer remain the sole province of Government and trade. As one German delegation member put it: "We want to create a new harmony between the people."

Brandt, the weatherman, has helped Gierek push a few clouds out of the way. In September when Schmidt visits Gierek, everyone's hoping for blue skies all the way.

Eduard Neumaier

(Die Zeit, 1 July 1977)



Willy Brandt at Torun being shown a scale model of the university (Photo: dpa)

Janos Kadar in Bonn

Continued from page 1

visited Budapest. In 1975 Frugyes Puja visited Bonn. Last year Hans-Dietrich Genscher paid the Hungarian capital a visit.

With no bilateral problems to cloud relations, these talks proceeded smoothly — inasmuch as talks between countries with different social systems and in membership with opposing military pacts can be said to the unproblematic.

Economic ties have proved a mainstay of bilateral relations ever since East-West trade was freed from its ideological shackles. The Federal Republic of Germany is Hungary's major trading partner in the West, yielding pride of place only to the Soviet Union, the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

Hungary has a dearth of raw materials, however, and at one stage accumulated a substantial trade deficit, but the deficit has been reduced from 858 million-deutschmarks in 1974 to 417 million last year.

A noteworthy feature of trade ties is the extent of cooperation agreements. The 200-odd such agreements concluded between this country and Hungarian firms account for roughly half the total for the Comecon countries as a whole.

Hungary allows its industrial enterprises greater leeway than other East bloc countries do, which has evidently proved beneficial once terms were negotiated.

The two countries still have a certain amount to make good in cultural ties. A draft cultural exchange agreement is only a problem inasmuch as it concerns the status of West Berlin, and progress may well have been achieved in the course of Mr Kadar's visit to Bonn.

And even if this proves not to have been the case, progress will certainly be reported in other sectors.

Harry Schleicher

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 June 1977)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Terrorism danger remains acute, says Maihofer

Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer has just presented his internal security report for 1976. The question that arises is: To which extent will this report allay the citizens' fears and apprehensions?

It is obviously in the nature of such a report to be slightly euphemistic for the sake of the Government. After all, the cries of Cassandra are provided by the Opposition anyway whenever the question of internal security arises.

This internal security has many facets, extending from general criminality via extremism on the left and on the right all the way to espionage and terrorism.

All these problems automatically give rise to questions linked with the term "constitutional state" — a state which must be on guard against being likened to the man who commits suicide for fear of death.

What it involves is the unending process of weighing priorities in order to strike a balance between the fundamental freedoms of the citizen on the one hand and the state's function as guardian of law and order on the other.

In striking such a balance we must always seek an answer to the question as to how to safeguard law and order with the least possible interference in personal freedoms, and the key words in this context are the proportionality of means and ends and a ban on excesses.

It is before this backdrop that the question "To which extent will this report allay the citizens' fears and apprehensions?" must be viewed.

There is no such thing as "the citizen" as a collective term. But be this as it may, one thing citizens do have in common is their need for security.

As a result, the citizen is inclined to consider the tough and determined state as the best and most respectable state; and after a spectacular murder he is likely to demand that we revert to the death penalty.

The security aspect which is so frequently raised in public debates as if it were at odds with the constitutionality of a state is in fact the most important component of a constitutional state.

Its very constitutionality places the onus on the state to provide the citizen with the protection of the law. Moreover, the constitutionality of a state is indivisible: all citizens must benefit from it no matter who and what they are.

Constitutionality also means that the *Verfassungsschutz* (the office for the protection of the Constitution or "Internal Security Agency") must not employ shady means and operate outside legality as happened a few months ago in the case of the nuclear scientist Robert Traube on whom the *Verfassungsschutz* eavesdropped (incidentally, with a device which proved inoperable).

Protection of the Constitution must include the totality of all legal codes, institutions and measures of a state, which it must protect from attempts to abolish, change or disrupt the constitutional order.

In doing so the Internal Security Agency must cooperate with its counterparts of the individual states.

The internal security report for 1976 comprises about 200 pages. Its overall tendency is marked by cautious and probably justified optimism.

Extremism from the right is in fact not a serious danger. This is borne out by the poor election results of the NPD (right-wing German nationalist party) at the October Bundestag elections and by the diminished number of right extremist organisations and their membership, although excesses increased by 50 per cent (incidentally, this is a general symptom).

One can therefore conclude that right extremism, while a possible disturbance factor, has no great potential.

The report on left extremism is also not particularly alarming: There is the DKP (German Communist Party) — with its 42,000 members the strongest grouping on the left and supported to the tune of DM30 million by the GDR — and there is the KBW (the Communist Federation of West Germany) with an unchanged membership of 2,500.

The report notes the effectiveness of left extremist slogans, especially at universities, which included expressions of sympathy for the assassins of Chief Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback.

The report also points to successes in combating GDR and East bloc espionage. A considerable number of arrests were made, but the question concerning the influx of new spies from the East remains.

Concerning extremists in the civil service, this is not a question of numbers, but a question of finding the magic formula that would strike a balance between snooping into the minds of applicants for civil service and endangering our Constitution.

The report makes it quite clear that the danger of terrorism remains acute. The Internal Affairs Committee of the Bundestag expressed fears several weeks ago that terrorists and followers of violent communist groups in conjunction with anarchists could at any time muster a "revolutionary peoples' army" of 15,000.

This potential reservoir of terrorism at home and the increase of international cooperation among terrorists remain the danger number one.

The strategy with which to fight terrorism is familiar and the fight against it is a matter which concerns us all. Therefore, the less party politics affect this fight the greater are its chances of success.

Ernst Müller-Meiningen Jr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 June 1977)

Not all FDP members willing to toe the line

It has been certain ever since the "small party conference" in Saarbrücken that the Liberals (FDP) are faced with a massive leadership crisis.

This puts FDP Chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's shuttle diplomat, in the limelight.

At the last Federal party convention of the FDP, Herr Genscher still managed to win over the rank and file and to make them toe the Executive Committee line.

The fact that large segments of his party are now evidently no longer prepared to toe this line — as borne out by the nuclear energy issue — leads to two conclusions: Firstly, Herr Genscher is overtaxed in his double function as Foreign Minister and Party chairman.

He has had to contend with massive accusations that he was more concerned about Malawi and Somalia than about his own party.

And indeed it could be asked whether it is advisable for a Foreign Minister to do everything himself. A bit more delegation of duties would certainly benefit his party.

Even for "Bonn's Kissinger" the work day has only 24 hours.

Secondly, developments which cast their shadows on the two previous party conventions continued in Saarbrücken. The gap between the FDP leadership and the rank and file is widening because the Liberals are more and more embracing the political principles of the SPD or are, in fact, becoming even more "left" than the latter.

Unless Herr Genscher manages to get a firm grip on the reins soon, the FDP function as the pragmatist element in the Coalition will lose its credibility, and the party could delete the term "independent" from its political vocabulary.

Friedhelm Fiedler

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 June 1977)

Setbacks for CDU leader Kohl

Helmut Kohl is making it anything but easy for his fellow party members to evaluate the qualities of the new leader of the Opposition.

In the debate on the Federal budget for 1977 it seemed for a while as if the CDU chairman had at least managed to achieve a parliamentary breakthrough. But this to have been more by accident than by design.

Since then, Herr Kohl has within a few days suffered a number of defeats. Due to the chaotic Opposition policy in the dispute about the social security package and the defence budget, he was confronted with a tide of angry protest.

Even so, Herr Kohl recently maintained quite unperturbed that, under his leadership, the CDU had swiftly succeeded in seizing the initiative in many sectors.

There is no malice in saying that this self-assessment is fallacious. After all, it was CSU politicians who wired Helmut Kohl: "We not only consider your policy to be lacking in credibility but we also consider it as having foundered."

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1977)

Both sides no longer see eye-to-eye over defence

On 24 June, when the Bundesrat rejected the amendment to the National Service Law with the votes of the CDU and CSU governed states (with the exception of Lower Saxony), it only confirmed the break in the consensus which existed for more than two years between Government and Opposition in matters of defence.

Speaking before the Bundestag, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt drew attention to this very fact in the debate on the Defence budget. But even so, the CDU/CSU rejected Defence Minister Georg Leber's budget.

The Opposition justified its objection with unconvincing arguments. Its accusations that Herr Leber lacked in fairness in his treatment of certain Bundeswehr generals failed to hold water due to the obscure role which prominent CDU/CSU members played in these cases or in the assessment of them.

Both CSU spokesman Zimmermann and CDU defence expert Wörner had to be reminded of certain rather embarrassing facts.

The contention that Minister Leber showed weaknesses in his style of leadership and that he had indeed "lost his way" was refuted by the Minister's self-assurance and self-assertion in the debate. Moreover, what Opposition spokesmen had to say against the budget was weak.

Herr Wörner's recipe, in which he maintained that CDU and CSU wanted a stronger rather than a weaker defence, was illusory considering the financial position of Bonn and the DM33,00 million earmarked for defence in the budget plus another DM15,000 million which have been placed in a different pigeonhole for the same purpose in the overall budget.

Behind it all is the old accusation that the Government does not take the danger from the East seriously enough.

This assessment of the situation is one of the main reasons for the "No" concerning the National Service Law amendment.

The CDU/CSU fear that the Bundeswehr could be weakened by this amendment.

They also do not trust our youth's willingness to serve in the Bundeswehr in sufficient numbers once it becomes easier to opt for civilian service due to the abolition of panel hearings for conscientious objectors.

But if the Opposition were to be proved right it would be very easy to revert to the old system, since the amendment has the necessary provisions built in. But this is an unlikely contingency in the foreseeable future.

The Opposition also overlooks the fact that the present procedure for conscientious objectors is at odds with today's psychological and political situation.

For one thing, it is in keeping with our young people's general desire for more say to grant the generation the freedom of choice.

And, for another, even the CDU/CSU should gradually have realised that the Bundeswehr's function (contrary to that of its predecessors) is no longer to protect the Fatherland first and foremost, but that its main task is to act as a deterrent and, in conjunction with its allies, prevent war.

This function meets with much less resistance among young people than would the functions of the past.

As a result, the risk inherent in the freedom of choice between military and civilian service is relatively small in practice.

Despite so many good reasons, we are once more faced with a situation where it will be up to the President or the Constitutional Court to decide whether the amendment is consistent with the Constitution.

The procedural reasons for the jurisdiction of the Bundesrat, as listed by the Opposition, can only be assessed and evaluated by constitutional experts.

The argument that the amendment is the first step towards abolishing national service and that it is therefore unconstitutional does not sound very convincing.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 June 1977)

■ LAW

Guilt principle abolished in new law on divorce

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The new law on marriage and the family, effective from 1 July, will mean a fairer, but generally also a more long-drawn-out procedure, for divorce. The annual number of divorces is at present more than 100,000. The main points are:

The first sentence of the new law on marriage is that "Marriage is entered into for life." It underlines the guarantee in the Basic Law to give special protection to the family and the institution of marriage.

The new law is based on the principle of equal rights and duties for both partners. It does not acknowledge any traditional roles or privileges. Both partners should decide "by mutual agreement" who is going to run the home and whether one or both partners is to work.

Partners will however have to take the family into consideration when choosing and pursuing their professions.

The regulations on divorce are the main item of the new law. The new law on divorce is a radical departure from the old one. In it the guilt principle is replaced by that of breakdown of marriage, i. e., what counts is not the guilt of one or other partner, but simply whether or not the marriage has broken down.

A breakdown occurs when the partners are not living together or are not *likely to live together in the future. If a* couple have been separated for periods from one to 5 years this is taken as evidence of breakdown. The details are as follows:

• If the partners have been living apart for less than a year, divorce is only possible if continuation of the marriage would be intolerable because of the partners' behavioural traits.

• It will be assumed that the marriage has broken down irrevocably if the partners have been living apart for a year and both apply for a divorce or if the partner against when the suit is being brought agrees to it.

• *If the separation has lasted more* than 3 years, the marriage is to be summarily dissolved. For special reasons and in exceptional cases this period can be extended to 5 years.

Serious illness of the partner being sued, financial difficulties or considerations of the children's well-being can constitute such exceptions.

• After a 5 years period the marriage is to be dissolved regardless.

If there is still a prospect of reconciliation, the court can suspend proceedings for up to a year before the three year separation period has elapsed and, after three years, proceedings can be suspended for up to six months.

Spouses can be separated for legal purposes even if they are living in the same flat. The decisive factor is whether partners are really living together in the true sense of the word.

The same applies if one spouse completely rejects the other. Short periods of living together for the purposes of reconciliation are not considered as a break in the period of separation.

Maintenance: In principle each partner is responsible for his or her own *maintenance after the divorce. If a pa*rtner cannot provide for himself or herself the other partner can be required to do this in certain circumstances. These are:

• If it would be unreasonable to expect him or her to take up employment a) because of the need to look after or bring up a child. b) because of age, or c) because of other physical or mental disabilities.

• if the partner cannot find, or loses, suitable employment;

• in order to continue or complete a course of study or training which he did not pursue because of marriage;

• for further studies or retraining to compensate for disadvantages which arose through marriage;

• if for any other grave reasons the partner cannot be expected to take up employment and it would be unjust to refuse maintenance.

The right to claim for maintenance expires when the recipient is in a position to take up suitable employment.

No maintenance need be paid for example if the marriage lasted only a short time or if the claimant committed a crime against the maintenance-paying partner.

If children are involved, then the divorced partner's claims have priority over those of the new partner.

• Regulations on provision for divorced partners in their old age or in case of incapacity are a completely new feature of the marriage law.

According to the new regulations pensions and provision rights which have accrued during marriage are to be split equally between the partners when they are divorced.

The total provision accumulated during marriage is calculated, regardless of which of the partners has earned it.

After the divorce each partner is to receive a half. A transfer is therefore necessary — from the partner with the greater entitlement to the partner with less or none.

Entitlement to social insurance pensions, official and civil service pensions, company pensions, professional pensions and pensions from private insurances are *all to be equalised in this way.*

With permission of the family court and notarial verification, partners can also make private agreements, but here too, "fair equalisation" must be ensured.

By a marriage contract this equalisation can be completely excluded up to a year before the divorce.

There are also special cases in which this compensation is not to be paid, for example when a partner failed to contribute to the upkeep of the family during the marriage.

Procedure: A family judge will in future be responsible for divorce and matters arising from it in the civil courts. Applicants are obliged to use the services of lawyers. The costs of the proceedings are generally to be shared equally between both partners.

Wulf Petzoldt

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 June 1977)

Financial help from the State for victims of violence

Since 1 January 1977 this country has been providing another social service, yet hardly any of its citizens seem to know anything about it.

According to the so-called Law on Compensation for Victims of Violence which has effect retrospectively from 16 May 1976, victims of violence can receive financial assistance from the state if their earning capacity is permanently affected as a result of a crime committed against them.

Ludwig Crössmann, president of the Hessian Provincial Maintenance Office in Frankfurt, complains that "our maintenance offices in Hesse have only received 195 applications from victims, although the number of victims entitled to apply is certainly far higher."

The new law, which is meant as a further step along the road to making this country a fully social state carries out the promise made in the Basic Law to provide compensation for any citizen making a sacrifice for the good of the community.

The payments are based on those made to war victims. Permanently disabled victims of crimes receive state compensation according to the degree of their incapacity.

This can range for a subsidy for medical treatment to a monthly pension to compensate for financial losses incurred as a result of a crime.

The state can only be required to pay up if there has been a premeditated illegal attack on the person, in which the victim's health is permanently damaged. Damage to health is only recognised as permanent if the consequences of the injury last for more than six months.

Several clauses have been inserted into the law limiting the conditions under which payment can be made. This is to prevent shrewd citizens from fiddling the state out of tax revenue which is already in short supply. For example anyone who starts a fight in a public house in the course of which he is injured cannot expect any financial assistance from the State. Moreover, these payments can only be claimed if no other organisation — health insurances or professional associations, pay the costs the victims incur. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 24 June 1977)

Constitutional Court advocates law to suspend life terms

The Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, the highest court in this country, has rejected in a 105-page-long judgement the legal objections of the Provincial Court in Verden, which did not want to sentence a convicted murderer to life imprisonment, the highest penalty.

The Court conceded that life imprisonment was an exceptional infringement of basic rights, because it literally meant the offender's exclusion from free society.

This raised a number of legal and criminological points which legislators had to decide on and up to now they had decided to retain the penalty of life imprisonment for the most serious crimes.

The Constitutional Court had to decide on the basis of the Verden documents whether their decision was compatible with the constitution.

However at present the situation seems to be quite clear.

Life imprisonment did not violate the principle of man's dignity, because Article 1 of the Basic Law, which protects the dignity of man as an inalienable right, fixed the interpretation of the nature of punishment and its relation to crime. Every punishment must be appropriate to the gravity of the crime and the degree of the criminal's guilt.

The community had a right to protect itself against dangerous criminals, but here again the principle of the punishment fitting the crime must apply.

The offender should never be used as a mere example to deter others in the fight against crime. Forcibly depriving a man of his freedom without giving him the chance of regaining it was incompatible with the idea of human dignity as understood in the constitution.

The possibility of a pardon did not in itself constitute an adequate formal and legal guarantee that the offender would have the chance of regaining his freedom.

The Constitutional Court therefore required Parliament to prepare a set of regulations and conditions for the suspension of life-sentences.

This did not involve a break with the principle of guilt, nor was there any reason to fear a reduction in the deterrent effect of life imprisonment. It would simply mean giving proper legal form to what was at present normal practice.

In the Court's view, life imprisonment for murder did not violate the constitutional requirement that punishment should be reasonable and appropriate.

This punishment had an important function as a sanction against murder, it reflected society's sense of the value of human life and it clearly showed society's disapproval of the act of murder.

It did not preclude rehabilitation of murderers at a later point and it ensured that the criminal repaid his debt to society.

Justice Minister Hans Jochen Vogel (SPD) welcomed the court's decision. He said in Bonn that the decision confirmed life imprisonment as an appropriate reaction to serious crimes. The court's decision also confirmed his view that courts should be empowered to grant conditional releases after a minimum period of a life sentence had been served. In his opinion this minimum period should be 15 years. *Knut Teske*

(Die Welt, 22 June 1977)

■ PEOPLE

Klaus Bölling, the man expected to have all the answers

Klaus Bölling Government spokesman, and head of the Press and Information Office, has been a familiar sight on German TV screens for the past 10 years.

Already in 1966 he entered the nation's living rooms when he became *moderator of the TV newsreel "Weltspiegel".*

In 1969 he went to Washington for four years as chief correspondent of the ARD TV network. After a one-year spell as director of Radio Bremen he was appointed to his present post — positions held formerly by Rüdiger von Wechmar and Conrad Ahlers.

The man with the dark eyes, the neat and yet not pedantic black hair, exudes frank masculinity. On TV he could well play the part of the hospital doctor who comforts the sick in extremis, or the captain on the bridge of the sinking ship whose calm voice issues the orders that avert disaster.

But *fate had different things in mind* for Klaus Bölling. Born in Potsdam near Berlin on 29 August 1928, he became a journalist after the Second World War.

From 1956 to 1958 he worked as a correspondent in Belgrade. In 1966 came the TV breakthrough.

Every morning at 9 Klaus Bölling reports to the Chancellor for a briefing, and to do so he must rise at the crack of dawn in order to be duly prepared.

It is impossible to say with any certainty when — apart from duty-free weekends, he manages to get to bed. Bölling makes a point of spending at least ten minutes with the Chancellor at the of the latter's working day for a briefing on the day's events.

Apart from this briefing session, which can never be accurately timed, the Government spokesman has a firm commitment every evening: he has his dinner and background discussions with the various information circles that have mushroomed in Bonn during the past few years.

As opposed to his predecessor von Wechmar, who is now Bonn's Ambassador to the UN in New York, Bölling tries to avoid diplomatic cocktail parties. Instead, he quite frequently attends Social Democratic functions, having joined the party in 1958 when he was deeply impressed by Herbert Wehner during the latter's visit to Belgrade.

Asked how many free evenings he had a week, Herr Bölling said: "Apart from actual weekends, I might at best have one or two free evenings a fortnight. All other evenings are taken up with one thing or another."

Concerning the question whether in his job he had any private life worth mentioning Bölling pointed out that he has been divorced for two years and that his 18-year old daughter, who still goes to school, lives at home.

At one point in the past years he felt that he had met a person with whom it would have been worthwhile living together. But he felt that the type of life his appointment book permitted him to lead would have been an imposition on any woman.

When relinquishing his office to Bölling, Rüdiger von Wechmar took stock: 491 press conferences in four and half years telephone calls providing information to individual journalists, plus the work in involved in heading an office with a staff of 700.

Bölling who, on taking on that office, promised that he would be available to his fellow journalists by telephone 24 hours a day, seems to be well on his way to breaking this record.

The amazing availability of the man is curiously at odds with the assessment of his clients who have been heard to say that the information he provides is scanty, and becoming even more so.

Some particularly nasty critics try to explain this with a question: When is this man who is constantly available to provide information to find the time to inform himself?

Klaus Bölling does not take such criticism lightly. When Helmut Schmidt offered him the job and he was faced with the necessity of making a decision within 24 hours, he was not quite aware of what he would be letting himself in for.

He points out that it was not ambition that prompted him to take on the job, as some of his colleagues maintain. It was simply that he was intrigued by the challenge.

True, he had received a hint earlier that he might be listed for the office, but then some other name topped the list. As a result, Helmut Schmidt's offer came unexpectedly while Bölling was en route to a conference of broadcasting directors in Baden-Baden.

From a roadside inn he telephoned an old friend and asked him for advice.

The friend tried to dissuade him, saying: "You have never worked in Bonn." He pointed out that Bonn was a most dangerous spot for those unfamiliar with it.

That evening, after the conference, Bölling telephoned Helmut Schmidt and had a 15-minute discussion with him, at the end of which he agreed to take the job. He had gained the impression that he could implement his ideas of a "positive information policy."



Klaus Bölling (Photo: Sven Simon)

The fact that he is nowadays frequently unhappy when going to a press conference is due to his knowing that he has not much to offer, which is certainly not attributable to lack of goodwill on his part. It is essentially due to the nature of his work and to the Bonn scene in general.

The head of the Press and Information Office has innumerable possibilities of keeping himself informed. Bölling's attempts to avail himself of these possibilities are in no way less than the time and effort spent in making himself available to his "clients".

His appointments are unending ranging from Cabinet sessions via the sessions with the "clover leaf" (Helmut Schmidt, State Minister Wischnewski and the administrative head of the Chancellery Schüler) and discussions with Ministers all the way to experts' discussions which he attends with his notebook.

Bölling's forte (which some criticise as his greatest weakness) lies in the fact that he enjoys the confidence of the Chancellor, whom he admires.

This might have been at the root of what might be termed his worst crisis in office.

When, during the Traube bugging affair, Herr Schüler and with him the Chancellor himself came under fire, Herr Bölling's information policy concentrated more and more on the role of Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer (FDP).

He tried (or at least that was the impression not only with Schmidt's Coalition partner) to get Schüler and the Chancellery off the hook at the expense of Maihofer.

This irked the Free Democrats even more and they felt that, "He is only trying to protect his Chancellor, not bothering about us at all."

The crisis has now been weathered and, in Bölling's own view, the misgivings have been eliminated. The FDP, however, is rather more sceptical, saying: "There is no point in bearing grudges; after all, we don't want to talk the Chancellor into dropping the man he thinks is good for him."

On top of the trouble with the Coalition partner there are also persistent frictions with one of his deputies, the economist Armin Grünewald, who was already an old hand when Bölling became his superior.

There is also the virtually built-in conflict with the Opposition. It dealt him a severe defeat when the Constitutional Court ruled that the Information and Press Office had inadmissibly engaged in party propaganda for the SPD during the 1976 election campaign.

It is in keeping with Bölling's personality that this defeat and the aggressive accusations levelled against him by some ambitious CDU men worry him.

Bölling is not an agitator who enjoys inflicting injuries on others. He believes in the logic of his arguments, which he presents in artful formulations, frequently interspersed with Latin, and he seems to be surprised when his arguments fail to convince. But his most ardent critics whom he calls "my dear colleagues" are the journalists.

It is his credit though to have induced the Chancellor to be more friendly to journalists; and it is also his credit to have actually been available day and night.

It is an undeniable fact that of the enormous flow of information in his possession only a small trickle leaves his office since he can only release information which is not classified.

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 June 1977)

Researcher von Weizsäcker turns 65



Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker (Photo: Interpress)

Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, who recently turned 65, once termed himself "a professor of philosophy who was trained as a physicist and who is not quite uninvolved in political events."

This might depict his position of science and society, but it does not describe the scope of his thoughts since his commitments as a researcher, interpreter and forecaster have a much wider range.

The name of today's director of the Max Planck Institute for Research into Conditions of Life in a Scientific and Technological World, Starnberg, is also linked with discoveries in nuclear physics, analyses of our changing world and ideas on the "art of forecasting future developments."

The son of a naval officer and subsequent State Secretary worked at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics and Chemistry in Berlin after receiving a professorship.

He taught theoretical physics in Strassbourg from 1942 to 1945.

On his return from British internment he held the Chair of Physics and was department head at the Max Planck Institute of Physics in Göttingen. *dpa*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 28 June 1977)

■ TRADE

EEC and Efta remove tariff barriers

Tariff barriers between EEC member states and the member nations of Efta were removed on 1 July, but the work of customs officials is unlikely to diminish.

Although a free trade zone has been created, made up of the nine states of the European Community and Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria and Portugal, with some 300 million inhabitants — a zone in which no customs duty is levied except for some sensitive goods and for agricultural products — the flow of goods nevertheless has to be subjected to the same stringent checks as before.

These checks are a necessity rather than chicanery on the part of officialdom. The necessity arises from the difference between a tariff union, as in the case of the EEC, and a free trade zone, as in the case of Efta.

In a tariff union, all member nations remove not only tariff barriers between each other, but they also levy uniform customs duties on all imports from non-member states.

As a result, a product which has been imported into the Federal Republic of Germany from a non-EEC member country via France will have the same duty levied on it as if it had been imported directly.

On the other hand, the member nations of a free trade zone remove tariff barriers among each other, but they do not introduce a common customs duty for imports from non-member states.

This means that duty-free trade can only apply to goods originating in the zone itself. If the abolition of duty were not restricted to such goods, products from non-member states would be imported via the country that levies the lowest duty at its borders.

This would result not only in a diversion of the flow of trade, but also in diminished revenues from customs levies for the country of destination.

Moreover, tariffs serve to protect the domestic industry and this protective wall could be bypassed. Therefore, the abolition of tariffs within a free trade zone — as between EEC and Efta — must be restricted to goods originating in these countries.

But what is a country of origin in this context? This question can only be clearly answered in cases where a raw material is processed in its country of origin.

If, on the other hand, raw materials are imported, the whole issue become more complicated because what matters in such cases is the degree of processing. Such a qualifying degree of processing can be assumed when the finished product occupies a different position on the tariff list than the materials used in making it.

Furthermore, it is necessary that there be a certain value added in order that the processing country be recognised as country of origin. But this, too, is only so in principle. There are obviously many exceptions.

Moreover, the EEC has not only concluded an agreement with Efta, but also with each of its seven member states.

The control of country of origin regulations is becoming the more important the more tariffs are abolished, and this means that our customs officials will have plenty to do in the future as well.

Disputes about origins have almost become a ritual in foreign trade. And to make matters worse, there is plenty of latitude for arbitrary action — particularly so since this could provide a back door for protectionist measures.

Notwithstanding all these facts, the first of July is an important date for the German economy. As a result of the new regulations, some 60 per cent of this country's foreign trade will no longer be subject to added costs resulting from tariffs.

The Federal Republic of Germany exported goods to the tune of more than DM40,000 million to Efta states in 1976. That was the equivalent of about 16 per cent of West Germany's total exports. The Efta share in imports (DM21,000 million) amounted to about 10 per cent.

For the EEC as a whole, trade with Efta carries more weight than that with the United States, Canada, Japan, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand combined.

Whether or not the abolition of tariffs will lead to a rapid expansion of trade depends (considering the unstable economic situation at present) on whether the 16 states of the free trade zone will manage to get out of the doldrums.

It must furthermore be borne in mind that since the treaties between EEC and Efta came into force on 1 January 1973 in conjunction with the EEC memberships of Britain and Denmark, tariffs have been gradually reduced so that the effect on prices is not particularly great.

Even so, the first of July marks a further step towards closing the gap between the two economic blocs.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, 29 June 1977)

Eurobankers call for better credit information

Bankers in the Federal Republic of Germany are concerned about developments on Eurocredit markets.

In recent years, many countries have excessively strained their credit potential and, according to the bankers, it is becoming increasingly difficult to check creditworthiness in times of high balance of payments deficits.

The Federation of German Banks demands a comprehensive collection of all data that would provde information on the indebtedness of states. Only thus, they maintain, will it be possible to prevent excessive indebtedness of the individual countries.

Credits to the tune of 27,400 million dollars were taken up on Euromarkets in 1976. Of this amount 10,200 million dollars (37.1 per cent) went to the developing countries, which means that their credit requirements for the first time exceeded those of the OECD countries (35.9 per cent).

The East bloc availed itself of 1,600 million dollars (5.7 per cent).

It is notworthy that the oil-exporting countries made heavy use of credit facilities notwithstanding their enormous trade surpluses. They took up credits to the tune of 3,800 million dollars or 14 per cent of the overall volume.

Third World indebtedness on Euromarkets at present amounts to about 180,000 million dollars. The Comecon countries are indebted to the tune of some 45,000 million dollars.

But since both groups are not only borrowing, but also investing on Euro-

Frankfurter Rundschau

markets, their net position looks somewhat more favourable. Even so, their debts exceed their deposits.

Last year, Brazil (2,400 million), Mexico (2,200 million) and Venezuela ([illegible] million) ranked among the largest borrowers. Poland is the biggest of the East bloc borrowers (470 million).

In order to assure a smooth operation on Euromarkets, the banks have [illegible] started charging additional interest for credits. These added rates amounted in the second half of 1976 to 1.87 per cent above the London Inter-bank rate for developing countries and 1.51 per cent for the industrialised nations.

On average, this added rate almost doubled from the beginning of 19[illegible] (0.95 per cent) until the end of 19[illegible] (1.69 per cent).

During the same period credit durations dropped from nine to five and three-quarter years.

The Federation of Banks does not consider a general moratorium on debts for the developing nations as a suitable means for solving their problems. Such action, the bankers believe, would best serve to undermine the creditworthiness of these countries.

W. Hohmeyer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1977)

EEC and China determined to step up trade

A delegation of the EEC Commission embarked on the hitherto greatest foreign policy adventure of the European Community at the end of June.

This delegation is to complete preparations for official negotiations leading to a treaty between the EEC and the People's Republic of China on increased trade and economic cooperation.

In the course of July (the delegation is expected to return from Peking on 11 July) the nine member nations of the Community will receive the draft of negotiation guidelines from the EEC Commission in Brussels.

Following a decision by the European

KielerNachrichten

Council of Ministers, negotiations in Peking can get under way in early autumn.

China, which has hitherto bided its time, now seems to be anxious to come to an agreement because it needs Europe's technology and stepped up exports in order to be able to exploit its enormous natural resources.

It is now two years since China's first Ambassador to the EEC was accredited in September 1975. He is, apart from Yugoslavia's representative, the first Communist diplomat accredited to the EEC Commission.

The elegant Chinese diplomat — usually clad a la Mao, but in natural silk — has gained a certain fame in Brussels... and that not only because of the exquisite cuisine at his residence.

Anyone who has ever eaten at his home knows how to differentiate between run-of-the-mill Chinese restaurant fare and the real McCoy. But Ambassador Li Lien-pi has more to offer than food.

China has been supporting the unification of Western Europe for political reasons.

Foreign Minister Tschiao Yan-hue said before the UN General Assembly on 5 October 1976 that it was "necessary to create a powerful Western Europe." And the Chinese representatives in Brussels made it clear that, given equal quality and equal prices, they would give preference to European rather than American goods — let alone those of the Soviet Union.

And when the EEC early this year raised maximum import quotas from communist countries China was given preferential treatment, with its quota being disproportionately increased.

The EEC member nations have been trying for years to avoid transferring foreign policy authority to the Community.

This is feasible because the Treaty of Rome, which dates back to 1956/57, stipulates that foreign trade policy comes under the jurisdiction of the Community while at the same time omitting to stipulate the same for the related foreign economic cooperation policy since to all intents and purposes this did not exist at the time.

Peking, on the other hand, seems to be greatly interested in trade and cooperation with the EEC rather than with its individual member nations which are less interesting for People's China with its 900 million population.

There is likely to be a considerable tug-of-war within the EEC before the early autumn when the Council of Ministers is to present its negotiation guidelines to the EEC Commission.

Brussels would like to force a decision to the effect that trade and cooperation cannot be artificially separated.

Peking wants Europe to supply factories on a turn-key basis, for which it would like to pay with the goods manufactured in these factories. Trade and cooperation can thus very well be the same thing.

China would like to make use of European technology in exploiting its oil resources, of which it has more than it needs for its own use. As a result oil shipments to Europe are in the offing. Rumania is already buying oil from China.

Europe's consumers are likely to be faced with a PR campaign in favour of Chinese goods. At present, however, China is supplying primarily silk, cotton textiles and foodstuffs, in other words products which compete with European suppliers.

Heinmann [illegible]

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 June 1977)

■ SHIPPING

Shipowners call for action against East bloc dumping

DIE WELT

As John Henry de la Trobe, president of the German Shipowners' Association, explained to Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher prior to the Minister's trip to Moscow, the expansion of the Soviet merchant fleet has "virtually displaced the German merchant fleet in bilateral traffic with the Soviet Union."

Moreover, Herr de la Trobe said, Soviet shipping has achieved considerable advances in the cargo business with third countries. It is however reported that Herr Genscher found no time to raise this subject in Moscow.

Even so, Bonn has not remained inactive with regard to this matter. The Ministry of Transport is working on the draft of a plan to be presented to the Cabinet, aimed at halting East bloc advances on Western cargo markets. But it will probably take some time before this plan can be converted into political action, since the whole thing has to be coordinated with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (which has already expressed its reservations) and the Foreign Ministry.

Until this has been done it is unlikely that Transport Minister Kurt Gscheidle will be able to embark on his trip to Moscow. This is particularly so in view of the fact that it is generally considered likely in Bonn that this issue will be put on the agenda during Mr Brezhnev's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany in September.

After all, this subject is not only a matter of trade policy, but also involves foreign exchange considerations — let alone considerable military and strategic ramifications.

There can be no doubt that both Chancellor Schmidt and his Transport Minister view the advances of the Soviet Union's state-owned shipping companies with concern.

With their dumping practices, the East bloc merchant fleets have already captured 16 per cent of the world freighter tonnage although their share in world trade amounts to a mere 5 per cent.

In the trade between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, they already carry 13 per cent of the cargo. And in German ports they have secured a share of the cargo the volume of which is roughly half that of all German shipping companies combined.

And yet Bonn's concern is not shared everywhere. Thus for instance the Transport Ministers of the individual states of the Federal Republic of Germany recently issued a statement which — in the interpretation of Karl Heinz Sager, board member of Hapag-Lloyd — calls for shipping to be sacrificed in favour of trade with the East.

But Herr Sager does not have a very high opinion — and rightly so — of the Ministerial proposal to come to an understanding with the competition from the East on a purely commercial basis. He pointed out that this had been attempted before without any noticeable success.

According to Karl Heinz Sager, the Soviet Union is "negotiating with such toughness that there is no will to arrive at an understanding discernible."

In this connection Herr Sager pointed out that the Soviet Union last year carried twice as much freight between Europe and East Africa as did its German competitors.

Germany's shipowners advocate a mutual shipping agreement with fixed quotas for the various routes. But negotiations to this effect have been blocked by the Soviets for some time.

As a result, plans are now under consideration whereby quotas would be introduced in German ports for all government-subsidised cargoes — and this obviously includes all Hermes-insured exports.

But unfortunately present legal provisions are inadequate for the implementation of such measures. The Ministry of Transport therefore intends to propose an amendment of the foreign trade legislation — a move which the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs opposes.

What matters, however, is that something be done because our shipowners have credibly pointed out that Eastern dumping practices are threatening their existence.

Parallel with national activities, Europe's shipowners associations in Brussels are now trying to form a common front, although this has proven difficult in the past. It therefore remains important for Bonn to take action.

Gerd Brüggemann

(Die Welt, 27 June 1977)

UN Sea Freight conference in Hamburg next year

The Federal Republic of Germany will for the first time host a worldwide diplomatic conference next year. The Senate of Hamburg has been told by the United Nations that the 1978 UN Sea Freight conference will be held in that city.

According to Senator of Justice Gerhard M. Meyer, some 400 to 500 delegates from all countries of the world will attend the Hamburg conference, scheduled to take place from 6 to 31 March, where an international agreement on sea freight law is to be passed.

The UN Committee for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) spent ten years in preparing the agreement which is to be signed in Hamburg.

The Committee, with its membership of 36 nations — among them the Federal Republic of Germany — was commissioned by the UN General Assembly to work out a trade law which would be uniform throughout the world. One of the first draft agreements to be worked out within this framework is the Sea Freight Law which is to be passed in Hamburg.

Hamburg's Mayor, Hans-Ulrich Klose, proposed Hamburg as a venue for the conference while talking to UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim during the former's recent visit to the United States.

Herr Waldheim will take part in the conference and will probably address the Overseas Club. The City-State of Hamburg will bear DM380,000 of the total conference cost, estimated at about DM2 million.

(Die Welt, 29 June 1977)

300 German ships sail under foreign flags

Some 300 ships, wholly or predominantly owned by German shipping companies, sail under foreign flags.

Favourite flags of convenience are Liberia, Panama, Singapore and Cyprus. But Greece, Austria, Senegal, Somalia and South Africa have also become attractive as cost-saving expedients.

More than half of the ships sailing under flags of convenience were built within the past ten years — more than 30 of them in Japan.

Coastal shipping companies are also increasingly resorting to flags of convenience. Of the 60 ships under such flags of less than 1,600 GRT, 25 are offshore supply ships operated under Singapore flag by DDG "Hansa" and VGT-Bremen.

This information has been culled from *Schiffsliste 1977*, the 1977 list of shipping by Eckart & Messtorf which this year for the first time contains a separate list of German ships under foreign flag.

A total of 36 formerly German ships with a total of 86,000 GRT are registered in Cyprus. These are primarily small vessels which have exchanged their home port, bu not their route.

Cyprus is also the domicile of the German shipping company "Hanseatic Ship Management" (7ships ranging from 1,750 to 9,200 GRT) and of Chemlloyd Shipping and Lloydship Maritime who operate a combined fleet of 8 small tankers for chemicals. The average size of these ships is around 2,400 GRT.

Singapore provides the flag for the majority of German ships under flags of convenience.

Although the total tonnage registered in Singapore amounts to 487,000 GRT, the average size of the vessels is a mere 3,400 GRT because many supply ships and small units have made Singapore their home port and the fact that there are some 40,000-ton bulk carriers among them does not change the small per unit tonnage noticeably.

Panama (46 ships with 385,000 GRT and an average per unit of 6,900 GRT) serves as a port of registry for larger vessels such as the Hapag-Lloyd "Stone" ships and medium-sized bulk carriers.

Liberia is the country for big ships (53 vessels with a total of 831,000 GRT, averaging out at 15,700 GRT per vessel). The Veba tanker "Egmont", with its 110,000 GRT is the largest of these ships.

Among the owners of ships sailing under foreign flag are, among others, Ahrenkiel (2), Deutsche Afrika (16), Fritzen (6), Hamburg-Süd (6), Janssen (5), Oldendorff (31), Offen (11) and Temaris (8).

(Handelsblatt, 28 June 1977)

'Watch out, the oil cops are coming!'

Cops like to catch "big fish". Some of Hamburg's Waterways Police take this literally, and the men can be seen casting their 25-meter long lines from the harbour wall — and all that while on duty.

This seemingly scandalous state of affairs has a sound reason. These men are members of an anti-pollution squad and whenever they cast their lines they are on the track of polluters.

Instead of a hook, their lines carry an oil-absorbing cube which, following chemical analysis, helps track down the culprit.

Some 38,000 seagoing ships are handled in Hamburg every year. Last year alone, an oil alert had to be issued 112 times — 96 of these alerts having been within harbour precincts; 50 such alerts were sounded in the first five months of this year.

The nine-man special squad, which was formed in February 1976, is unique in the Federal Republic of Germany. Their operational area extends over 300 kilometres of the Elbe River, from the border with the GDR near Schnackenburg all the way to the light vessel Elbe One.

In Hamburg itself, the group also works as a gas detection unit and measures noise and radio-activity as well.

The men are as much at home in a helicopter as they are on police cutters and the autobahns — in other words, wherever dangerous goods are being transported.

Oil flows into the harbour as a result of negligence while bunkering, due to overflowing tanks and, in many instances, as a result of wrongly adjusted valves.

Says one of the squad members: "Big freighters and river barges frequently risk dumping oil into the water provided it is night and foggy and the tide is ebbing."

Those caught face not only fines of several thousand deutschmarks, but also have to pay for the necessary cleaning up.

In cases of serious oil alerts the squad immediately requisitions a helicopter from which two officers take photographs and direct the special environment protection car of the squad. Oil samples are analysed, which makes it possible to establish the likely culprit.

The final proof is provided by an analysis at the Biochemical Institute of Hamburg University.

The officers also check the tank nd pipe systems on board. All of them are familiar with the workings of ships since they are either mariners or marine engineers. On top of this, they had to learn a thing or two about chemistry.

Although intially viewed with scepticism by other government agencies, the anti-pollution squad of the police has earned the respect of the Hamburgers.

Following checks by squad members, some industries have already been presented with more stringent regulations concerning pollution.

Some telephone the squad or photograph neighbours when they feel that they have a case against someone.

Among barge skippers, many of whom have been caught and have had to pay fines, at has become customary to warn each other at the sight of he helicopter: "Watch out ... the oil boys are coming!"

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 June 1977)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Print revolution leaves hot metal out in the cold

Hot off the press? Those were the days. After a run of more than five hundred years the art of printing as devised by Gutenberg is well on its way to being superseded by new techniques that are faster and cleaner.

In the office the duplicator has been replaced by photostat and offset printing machines; newspaper compositors and process workers can wave goodby to lead and quoins and regletes too.

For over five centuries type has been set in hot lead; now it is the turn of the cold light of photosetting and proofing at computer terminals.

The transition was particularly in evidence at Drupa, the Düsseldorf printing and paper trades fair, where linotype machinery, the old familiar standby as far as most people are concerned, was virtually no longer on exhibit.

In a way, of course, linotype marked the beginning of the end of the printer's art as it had survived more or less unchanged since the Middle Ages.

In 1884 Ottmar Mergenthaler, a watchmaker from Württemberg who emigrated to the United States at the age of eighteen, developed the first machine that efficiently set entire lines of type.

This revolutionary innovation paved the way for printing by mass production and at cut-price rates. The days of the craftsman compositor slotting letters, spaces and symbols into position by hand were numbered.

An experienced hand compositor can set, say, 1,500 units per hour. Linotype operators can set type four to six times faster, while machines with a punched tape attachment can set up to 25,000 units an hour.

Thirteen years after Mergenthaler's invention a Hungarian engineer by the name of Przsolt came up with the idea of photosetting: beaming the letters on to photographic paper.

The first photosetting device that worked was built in 1916, but it was not until 1928 that Edmond Uher, also Hungarian by birth, designed the first photosetting equipment that measured up to practical requirements.

Uher's design did not catch on, though, and photosetting did not make its breakthrough until after the Second World War — alongside electronics and computers. Photosetting has unquestionably ushered in revolutionary changes in the printing industry. Cumbersome machinery has been replaced by optical, electronic and photochemical equipment.

The changeover has been most sweeping in the United States, where lead will probably be as dead as the dodo by the

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end of the decade, but it is also in evidence in the Federal Republic of Germany.

At Drupa the exhibitors of photosetting equipment were besieged — mainly, or so it seemed, by editorial staff keen to try their hands at a system that seems destined before long to land on their desks.

The transition from lead to photographic composition will affect not only print workers, but also deskmen and sub-editors.

The conventional procedure is that copy is typed and sent to the compositors who set it and run off a galley proof that is sent back to the desk.

In photosetting the staffer or sub is often his own compositor, typing copy straight into a computer terminal and checking the result on a monitor screen.

Proofing is also done at the terminal. A cursor is beamed at the screen and corrections, insertions and deletions are made there and then.

Proofed material is then stored on tape (punched or magnetic). A computer then sets the copy photographically on the required column width at a rate of 100,000 units an hour.

Pages are then laid out and matrices prepared photographically for the press. After this lengthy explanation it remains only to be said that the days of this technique likewise appear to be numbered.

The latest technique involves the use of cathode ray tubes which print out copy by means of electronic light impulses. Combined with digital computers the output can be increased to forty million units an hour.

Thus a 36-page issue of *Deutsche Zeitung* totalling, say, 900,000 units could be set in a matter of minutes.

Page layout, which in combination with photographic composition consists of pasting up photographic positives on film or paper, is also in the process of being taken over by computers.

Manufacturers are already marketing page terminals that enable the page editor to lay out his page on a monitor screen.

This techniques has yet to gain a firm foothold, but pundits reckon the breakthrough will come within a couple of years or so. When it does, a complete page layout stored on tape can be fed straight to the matrix, bypassing the intermediate film stage.

Laser platemakers will then scan the plastic plates. Two manufacturers exhibited equipment of this kind at this year's Drupa.

Revolutionary changes are invariably accompanied by hardship and teething troubles. "Unemployment among compositors, a group of highly-skilled operatives, at printers who are changing over to electronic techniques is a spectacular example of the way in which technological progress can lead to serious hardship," says Kurt Werner, chairman of the Drupa board.

Yet progress cannot be kept at bay when an entire industry is struggling to remain competitive.

If, for instance, printing machinery manufacturers were to resist the temptation to switch from linotype to photosetting equipment there might be fewer redundancies among print workers, but machinery manufacturers would soon be up against it. Their equipment would no longer be competitive on world markets.

Hardship can only be alleviated by means of staff training schemes and management keeping abreast of the latest developments, Bonn Economic Affairs Hans Fridcrichs noted at the Düsseldorf fair. But swift action will need taking, and in some cases it may even be too late to prevent the change from causing hardship.

Hein Gr

(Deutsche Zeitung, 24 June 1977)

New ideas have kept Patent Office busy for 100 years

What do suspenders and light bulbs, rocking chairs and vacuum cleaners, motorcycles and airships have in common? They are all inventions that were patented.

The German Patent Office was 100 years old on 1 July and is still going strong. Many inventions for which patent rights have been applied over the years may never have left the drawing-board or progressed from the prototype stage, but the thousands of ideas that have proved landmarks in technological progress amply justify and testify to the economic importance of the patent system.

The Patent Office in Munich dates back to the Imperial Patent Office, which was established in Berlin on 1 July 1877.

Its records include a number of surprises. There are, of course, the original patent applications for the aeroplane, the telephone and the motor-car. These were submitted by inventors whose names are well known, such as Otto Lilienthal or Alexander Graham Bell.

There are also any number of innovations that did not live up to the inventors' expectations. They never made their breakthrough and now testify merely to what might have been.

Patent-holders have even included a Bonn Chancellor. Konrad Adenauer once patented a recipe for a special kind of maize bread, but it manifestly failed to make his fortune.

The same was true of Patent No. 1, submitted by one Johannes Zeltner of Nuremberg. It was a red version of ultramarine dye.

Over the years five million applications have been submitted, but only 1.3 million were eventually registered. The Patent Office, which moved to Munich after the Second World War, receives 60,000 applications a year.

The fees are substantial and regularly increased with a view to ensuring that only marketable inventions are patented.

But if inventions were liable to unbridled piracy, many of them would never have been made. What is the point of inventing something if anyone is at liberty to steal your idea and deprive you of the opportunity of capitalising on it?

Munich also handles registered designs and trademarks, thereby ensuring, for instance, that rival manufacturers cannot market identical brands of detergent.

This registry and the drafting of six million documents a year constitutes a further part of the work done by a Patent Office staff of two and a half thousand.

The Munich Patent Office, which will shortly be joined by the European Patent Office, is one of the few bureaucratic institutions that virtually pays its way.

Yet Erich Häusser, president of the Patent Office, will hear nothing of allegations that its services are outrageously expensive.

The initial application would certainly seem to be value for money at a mere 100 deutschmarks. A patent valid for the full eighteen years costs 10,000 marks but only 3.7 per cent are covered for the full term. Most applicants allow patents to lapse beforehand.

Lone inventors certainly appear to be a thing of the past. Most applications nowadays are submitted by industrial research and development divisions and laboratories. An exhibition in Munich has been arranged to outline the work of the Patent Office over the past century.

dpa

(Handelsblatt, 28 June 1977)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Cleaning up the Rhine now purely a political problem

There must be no slackening in the pace of international cooperation in cleaning up the Rhine, otherwise the water supply on which twenty million people depend will be jeopardised.

Measures undertaken in recent years amply demonstrate that cleansing the effluent that is pumped into the river no longer presents technical problems; the problems are purely political.

"Viewed realistically, one cannot but conclude that each and every country bordering on the Rhine and its tributaries must redouble its efforts to keep the river clean. All the countries concerned have legislation on their statute books by the terms of which purification can readily be enforced."

Or so says Maarten Schalekamp of Zurich, president of the International Working Party of Rhine Catchment Area Waterworks. At the organisation's annual conference in Wiesbaden he reiterated his appeal to politicians in the countries concerned to do more faster to keep the Rhine clean.

In his opening address Herr Schalekamp did not restrict his criticism to local authorities and industrial enterprises which still do not purify their effluent satisfactorily, pumping enormous quantities of harmful substances into the river.

He also dealt with the purification measures undertaken in recent years and their repercussions on the ecology of the Rhine.

BASF in Ludwigshafen have invested 200 million deutschmarks in purification plant which has reduced by ninety per cent or so the input of biodegradable substances, with the result that the oxygen count has taken a turn for the better.

But this improvement has been more than offset by an increase in the amount of metallic impurities and organic compounds that are less readily biodegradable, Herr Schalekamp claims.

Along the lower reaches of the Rhine organic impurities increased last year, which only goes to show that the situation would have been substantially worse if BASF had not inaugurated its purification plant.

Herr Schalekamp was pleased to note that this year the phosphate count in the waters of Lake Constance has for once remained stable rather than increasing.

This is evidently the result of a number of major purification installations being taken into service. The oxygen count in Lake Constance should improve in the years to come too.

In Zurich the sewage works were equipped several years ago with a third purification stage. Herr Schalekamp felt that other authorities could do worse than emulate Zurich's work in this sector.

Six cities and industrial enterprises between them account for half the overall pollution of the Rhine with biodegradable substances and the lion's share of more obdurate compounds which jeopardise the supply of tapwater to twenty million people.

Pulp and cellulose are the principal offenders. At low-water mark they have been known to account for up to fifty per cent of the precipitated organic pollution of the Rhine.

The techniques that can be used to ease this burden are no secret. What is more, they are economically feasible, Herr Schalekamp maintains. They need only to be employed.

At Envitec, the Düsseldorf environmental trades fair, representatives of the pulp and cellulose industry promised in February to install purification plant with a view to reducing their share in Rhine pollution to ten per cent of the level registered in 1974.

By 1980, according to Professor Heinrich Sontheimer of Stuttgart, organic pollution of the Rhine, especially pollution by lignosulfonic acid, should have been cut back to such an extent that the quality of water from the river will improve perceptibly.

It must, however, be recalled that organic pollution increased again last year after a distinct improvement the year before.

Waterworks authorities in the Rhine catchment area remain far from happy about the salt count in general and pollution by chlorides and sulphates in particular.

By the terms of the third salt and chemicals agreement, which was signed on 3 December 1976 in Bonn, the salt pumped into the river by potassium mines in Alsace was to be reduced to twenty kilograms of chloride per second, or roughly six per cent of the total chloride pollution of the Rhine.

But hopes of a swift improvement have been dashed. The catchment basin at Fessenheim has been taken out of service, thereby improving the quality of tapwater from the Rhine in Baden-Württemberg and France, but problems have arisen further downstream.

Along the lower reaches of the river the six-per-cent reduction in the chloride count has only proved effective to the extent of between two and three per cent. At low-water the salt count in the Rhine has actually increased.

So a great deal more must be done to cope with the problems posed by the pumping of salt into the Rhine. The Wiesbaden conference appealed to all governments concerned to undertake additional measures to offset the latest trend.

But waterworks boards have no illusions about politicians coming to terms swiftly on suitable purification measures. The International Rhine Commission took roughly a quarter of a century to agree to the terms of the salt and chemicals agreement signed in Bonn last December.

In 1921 Germany and Holland set up a joint commission to protect the Rhine's stock of salmon. This commission was still going strong in 1950, which is more than can be said for the Rhine salmon, the last specimens of which perished that same year.

So the international working party of Rhine waterworks is only too happy to be able to report that the quality of water from the river is improving year by year.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1977)

Pollution watchdogs publish cadmium recommendations

The Environment Agency in West Berlin has followed up its first publication, a report on lead pollution, with a survey entitled Air Quality Criteria for Cadmium.

Unlike similar reports compled by the World Health Organisation of the European Community, the Berlin environment watchdogs have restricted themselves in the main to the situation in this country, and some of the points they make are alarming.

Cadmium is a silver-white, relatively soft heavy metal that occurs all over the world, usually alongside zinc. It is of no use to living beings; it is, indeed, highly toxic.

In the course of industrial development, especially since the Second World War, it has assumed the proportions of an environmental problem. It occurs not only in built-up areas, but also in the ecological cycle far, far away from the dark satanic mills.

Dr Heinrich von Lersner, who heads the Berlin agency, notes in his foreword to the cadmium report that surveys of other atmospheric pollution offenders are soon to be published. They are intended to help the Government make policy decisions.

At the beginning of this century world output of cadmium totalled fourteen tons a year. Last year it was 13,100 tons, of which this country accounted for 913 tons.

In 1972 the consumption of cadmium in the Federal Republic of Germany amounted to roughly 2,000 tons, of which about half was imported.

Cadmium is put to an increasing number of uses because of its physical and chemical properties. It is used in battery electrodes and to combat iron and steel corrosion. It is also used in alloys designed to melt at low temperatures and in neutron absorber rods for nuclear reactors.

Chemical compounds have likewise proved invaluable. Cadmium sulphide is used for yellow paint and cadmium selenide for red paint, while other compounds are used by manufacturers of photographic cells and PVC.

During production and processing a certain amount of cadmium finds its way into the atmosphere, soil and water. Since world output has increased a thousandfold since the turn of the century, pollution has increased accordingly.

As the cadmium report points out, cadium traces are now found everywhere: in the atmosphere, in the soil, in the water we drink and the food we eat.

What makes cadmium so dangerous is that it gradually accumulates in the body, especially in the lungs and kidneys, without perceptibly affecting the health.

Yet once a certain level is reached in the kidneys the damage is virtually irremediable. The most spectacular instance in recent years was the Itai Itai disease in Japan.

In Japan cadmium poisoning occurred via the food cycle, but cadmium also occurs in the air we breathe, so measures to combat atmospheric pollution are the obvious first step.

The Berlin report's recommendation is a ceiling of twenty nanograms per cubic metre. In most parts of the country cadmium pollution in the atmosphere remains below this limit, but this is not the case everywhere.

In the countryside the count varies between two and three nanograms per cubic metres. In built-up areas the count is generally between five and fifteen, but in centres of heavy industry where the metal is processed the count is between fifteen and twenty-five.

In the immediate vicinity of specific consumers levels of up to sixty nanograms per cubic metre have been recorded. Cities in which the mean annual level exceeds 25 nanograms per cubic metre include Stolberg, Nordenham and Duisburg.

In the long term pollution can only be reduced to below the recommended level in these areas by means of measures designed to combat this particular form of pollution and changes in manufacturing processes and consumer structure.

This particular environmental report has been long awaited by specialists in atmospheric pollution. It is designed by the Environment Agency to serve the government as a guideline in drafting statutory pollution ceilings and to direct the attention of the general public to the risks cadmium pollution entails.

The report not only provides the Bonn government with facts on which it can base national legislation; it may also pave the way for proposals at Common Market level.

(Handelsblatt, 24 June 1977)

■ KASSEL DOCUMENTA

The secret of the sixteen chairs

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Since 1955, when Arnold Bode organised the first Documenta arts show in Kassel, everyone concerned with this unique exhibition has willingly taken up the challenge of sounding out new directions in art all over the world.

Endeavours to present a cross-section of the international art scene undoubtedly bear comparison with a voyage of discovery, an expedition into uncharted terrain, in that they represent an attempt to clarify viewpoints at a point in time and artistic development.

Documenta organisers are given a free hand, which is surely to the eternal credit of the sponsors and everyone associated with the fair both financially and in terms of ideas.

Documenta is sponsored by the Bonn government, Hesse state, the city of Kassel and many private patrons.

Manfred Schneckenburger, the artistic manager of Documenta 6, this year's show, is a relative newcomer to Kassel. So are most of his associates. The founding fathers, as it were, have now entrusted a younger generation with the organisation.

Schneckenburger and his associates have not been content to rest on their predecessors' laurels. An increasingly wider view of what constitutes art has gained currency.

The dividing lines between conventional genres are growing blurred as they are joined by one new genre after another. The time had come, Schneckenburger decided, to rejig the entire underlying concept on which Documenta is based.

The concept which he decided best suits the wide range of art forms Documenta is intended to cover is the "media aspect".

In the foreword to the 1,100-page catalogue he reckons the concept "has proved a useful criterion for selection and arrangement at Documenta 6, enabling exhibits to be categorised in a manner that avoids the pitfalls of both stylistic constructions and didactic series of illustrations."

The three-volume catalogue includes illustrations of all exhibits and costs 75 deutschmarks.

Within this concept framework the working parties entrusted with supervising various sections of the exhibition worked independently. The media aspect recurs in varying intensity and is not felt by visitors to be in any way a straitjacket.

Yet in view of the abundance of exhibits which are frequently poles apart the visitor is bound to feel somewhat at a loss on occasion. A modicum of educational pointers on the spot would have done no harm.

Documenta is not, on the other hand, intended to be an educational exhibition, but at the same time it is not aimed solely at practitioners and cognoscenti of modern art, but at the general public as a whole.

Documenta 6 is not limited to Kassel's art galleries and public buildings suitable for exhibition purposes — to the Fridericianum, the Orangerie, the upper storey of the Neue Galerie and the Royal Cinema.

It has deliberately been extended in scope and space to include open-air city-centre locations, Karlsaue and its approach roads. Documenta is evidently aimed at the public, even taking to the road in the case Antoni Miralda's *Festival for Leda*, an allegorical open-air procession featuring a thousand participants.

Even between them, the catalogue, a shorter guide published by Bärenreiter-Verlag and Bazon Brock's resurrected "visitors' school" cannot hope to supply the breadth of information visitors really need, meritorious though they may be.

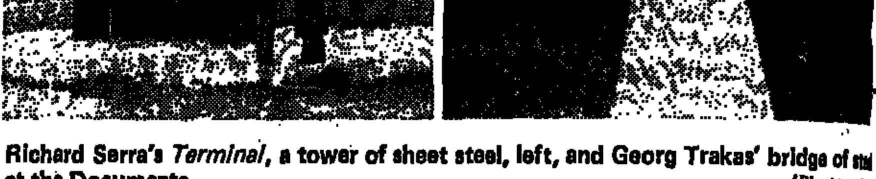
It remains to be seen whether the ten-part videotape series recorded by Channel Three of German TV will persuade a wider public to take a guided tour of the hundred-day Kassel art show in their own homes.

The videotape series is certainly worth noting as a starting point for alternative arts policies, and maybe this particular venture will indeed generate a wider interest in contemporary art.

Television is a medium well suited to conveying an idea of what Documenta 6 has to offer. With the aid of a single camera shot it can illustrate exhibits that are difficult to describe in words.

Art in the seventies is at times not even visible, however. Take, for instance, Walter de Maria's borehole on the lawn in front of the Fridericianum. This much-vaunted artistic venture consists of a hole that has so far progressed 500 metres or so in the direction of the centre of the Earth.

It is, the American artist explains, a protest against the avalanche of visual impressions of all kinds and modes of media presentation. The borehole is intended to remind us all that there are things we can neither see with the naked eye nor are in a position to grasp with Man's five faculties.

Richard Serra's *Terminal*, a tower of sheet steel, left, and Georg Trakas' bridge of steel at the Documenta (Photos: dpa)

Taken to its logical conclusion, this message extends from criticism of our life and times to considerations of a metaphysical and even religious nature.

Ideas of a similar kind motivated Jochen Gerz in his *Trans-Siberian Prospect*, and it is hardly surprising that Walter de Maria and Jochen Gerz hit on their respective ideas more or less simultaneously. Art is more than a matter of mere coincidence.

Jochen Gerz made a name for himself at last year's Venice Biennale with his *The Centaur's Difficulty in Dismounting*.

His latest work consists of sixteen simple chairs arranged in a square on a wooden stage in semi-darkness. In front of each chair is a slate bearing the vestiges of footprints and a few ashes of burnt paper.

A placard explains that Gerz spent sixteen days travelling the 16,000 kilometres by Trans-Siberian express from Moscow to Khabarovsk and back in a compartment with the blinds drawn.

He never once left the train, passing the time with two books, writing instruments and the sixteen slates, one for each day, on which he rested his feet.

When the journey was over he burnt his notebooks, leaving only the slates, each bearing the imprint of a pair of feet. They were all that was left of a 10,000-mile railway journey in a darkened carriage.

Can Gerz prove he actually made the journey or is it just a figment of his imagination? The artist prefers not to commit himself.

Thus the *Trans-Siberian Prospect* testifies to a disturbed and highly critical relationship with the reality we can see and experience. It is an experiment in sounding out the truth of time experienced and imagined, of action undertaken in fact and fantasy.

Richard Serra, another American artist, attempts to tackle much the same problem with one of the more spectacular exhibits at Documenta 6, a tower of sheet steel that is intended to demonstrate Man's inability to infer the nature of matter merely from the visual impression.

The exhibition of books that are not what they appear to be may be categorised under much the same heading. There is Alice Koch's Knüll-Buch, Herbert Zang's Pizza Bag Book and Dieter Roth's Collection of Low-Lying Garbage.

These and many other exhibits at this year's Documenta appear abstruse at first. On closer scrutiny it will be appreciated that they are of inestimable value as a guide to contemporary view of art and a mirror of contemporary living.

By comparison the paintings of Roy Lichtenstein, Willem de Kooning, Francis Bacon, Jasper Johns, Richard Hamilton, Gotthard Graubner and Gerhard Richter seem relatively easy to comprehend — but only because we have grown accustomed to their way of looking at things.

This is even truer of the six painters and sculptors from the GDR whose works are on show at Kassel. Their work is of high quality and the ideological component has been scaled down substantially.

They remind us that the time has come to reappraise the widespread clichés about Socialist Realism — certainly as far as work done during the past two or three years is concerned.

As always, Documenta constitutes a challenge to rethink, to summon the courage to come to terms with something new and to ask critical questions with a view to gaining certainly about oneself.

Both visitors to Kassel and the public in general will have ample opportunity to do so over the next three months.

Rudolf Lange

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 June 1977)

■ EDUCATION

German universities too politicised, says report

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Following a study of seven universities in the Federal Republic of Germany, the International Council on the Future of the University presented its report on the development of German universities (the first of a series of such reports) at a press conference held in Berlin's Aspen Institute.

The Council was founded in 1970 and is made up of 15 internationally recognised scientists from 15 Western countries. Their yardsticks and basic principles are freedom of discussion at universities, their autonomy and the selection of the teaching staff according to criteria of qualification.

The German universities were chosen as the subject of their study because of their "unusual experimenting with new forms of administration and decision-making processes."

The politicising of universities, which was formerly considered a weakness of Latin American institutions of higher learning, has, according to the Investigation Committee of the Council, also affected the United States, Great Britain and France — albeit there only temporarily.

In Germany, on the other hand — which the Committee members visited during the "strike" unrests in January 1977 — the members feel that politicising has reached a particularly serious stage. In this connection they point out that the "group university" must essentially be viewed as governed by proportionate participation of teachers, students and administrative staff.

The *Hochschulrahmengesetz* (University Framework Law) — though it is appreciated that it has lent status to most university teachers — is criticised by the Council members for making group universities compulsory for all institutions of higher learning, thus jeopardising even those which have hitherto not been structured along these lines.

The group universities, they say, are extremely costly and take up a great deal of time for administration which many good university teachers could well use for research.

Moreover, the group university is accused of having its decision-making bodies staffed primarily by politically motivated representatives and of not necessarily appointing the most qualified people to such bodies.

As a result, the Council considers it understandable that the State Education Ministries frequently depart from the list of proposed nominees for these bodies.

In the interest of autonomy the Council suggests that the academic senates appoint committees of experts which could review one-sided nominations in the various specialised sectors.

The Council also criticised the dividing up of universities into too many specialised sectors and suggested the reintroduction of faculties or inter-disciplinary committees.

The members of the Investigation Committee also suggest that the states apply the *Hochschulrahmengesetz* in such a manner as to invest the teaching staff with the necessary authority and that the number of student representatives be proportionate to the number of those who actually took part in elections.

In order to counter the enormous pressure on the universities by the masses of students, the Council suggests that a strict system of interim examinations be introduced.

Furthermore, differences between the various types of institutions of higher learning should receive recognition in the interests of academic pluralism, and special performance should be rewarded by budgetary subsidies.

In order to cope with the influx of students — especially where particularly long-term studies are concerned — the Council suggests that the still too rigid career requirements be reviewed and that employment qualifications even for high-ranking positions permit more leeway than hitherto.

The image of German universities as it presents itself abroad is tarnished. When the International Council on the Future of the University, New York, embarked on a survey of seven German universities (including the Free University of Berlin) it received willing support everywhere.

The seven-member Investigation Committee was always correct in its interviews of students and teachers representing the most widely differing views and did not reveal its viewpoints until after it left Germany.

The Council, whose German representatives have from its very inception been members of the Federation for Freedom of Science or the *Notgemeinschaft* (Emergency Association), succeeded in writing a report which could hardly have been more negative.

Immediately after thanking the representatives of the universities under review for their "outspokenness, frankness and hospitality", they depicted the president of the Free University as being as far "left" as possible.

But in doing so, the Council does not speak for itself, but makes use of quotations of the most extreme of many statements made in the course of interviews.

For example: "It seems as if he (the president of the university) works only for the Communists. They can make as much propaganda and engage in as much agitation as they like ... they are free to use our university facilities for their political work while our lecturers are moved to various schools ... there are many students who believe that those in charge of the university favour a strike since they show so much understanding for it in public statements."

A few sentences further along, the quotation continues as follows: "It is impossible to get a job at the university — not even in the library — if one is not a Communist."

Small wonder than that, in the light of such quotations, the Council arrives at the conclusion that the Extremists Act (barring extremists from civil service) has barely had an effect other than to poison the atmosphere among students on strike, which led to their entertaining totally "distorted ideas."

Nothing is said about the fact that the university presidents moved the lectures from the campus in consultation with the Berlin Senate in order to prevent, as much as possible, clashes with the police.

Nor is anything said about the fact that the president — with his statement on the reasons for the boycott — wanted to inform a misguided public rather than welcome the boycott as such. And yet the Council interviewed both university presidents and politicians.

The politicising and extremism at many German universities is blamed on the group principle. In doing so, the Council speaks of universities as a whole rather than of individual left-leaning specialised fields, which would be more in keeping with reality.

The Council points out that, due to this group principle, it is not qualified individuals who are delegated to the committees, but politically motivated group representatives.

It substantiates these theses by quoting a Federal law whereby the decision-making bodies of universities must have proportionate representation in equal parts by teachers, students and administrative staff.

But this law does not exist and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future because the *Hochschulrahmengesetz* provides for absolute majority on the part of teachers in all bodies making decisions on research, teaching and appointments.

This type of proportionate representation in all bodies now exists only at Bremen University. For a limited period, however, there were experiments with such representation carried out in some individual institutes of the Free University in Berlin and the Technical Universities of Constance and Darmstadt.

Speaking of the Free University of Berlin, the Council maintains that it is particularly adversely affected by the group principle and alleges that students have a direct say where the curriculum

Continued on page 12

English tuition 'should begin in third grade'

English tuition should begin in the third grade of elementary schooling rather than, as practised hitherto, in the fifth grade.

This is the conclusion arrived at by educationalists of the Teachers' Academy of Lower Saxony, Department Brunswick, headed by Professor Peter Doyé.

The educationalists were commissioned by the Volkswagen Foundation Hanover in 1970 to carry out a long-range study of the effectiveness of an earlier beginning of English tuition. This was the first empirical study of this nature in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The study reveals that pupils whose English tuition begins in the third grade acquire a knowledge of the language which, in the long run, is superior to that of students who have begun English in the fifth grade.

Moreover, the study shows that those concerned — students, teachers and parents — generally welcome the early beginning of English instruction.

In their closing remarks, the Brunswick educationalists arrive at the conclusion that such an earlier beginning is desirable and that there are no reasons of an educational policy nature or with regard to organisational aspects at schools against grade three English. There are also no psychological reasons against it.

But the majority of teachers favouring early English make this contingent on three conditions: It must first be ensured that the elementary school has sufficient adequately qualified English teachers, there must be no break in continuity in English tuition at the secondary level, and English tuition in elementary schools must be organised in a form that will promote such learning.

The objective of the research project, for which the Volkswagen Foundation approved about DM383,000, was to examine whether English tuition in elementary schools will lead to better results than the customary beginning of such tuition in the fifth grade.

To this end, practical experiments were carried out at schools in Brunswick, Wolfsburg, Salzgitter and some nearby villages, with all third graders at these schools being given English lessons. The experiment began in 1974.

The experimental classes were observed as to their educational progress over a period of five years. This included the last two years of elementary school and the first three years of secondary school — in other words, up to the seventh grade.

At the end of every school year, students were subjected to tests of English performance; and at the end of the fifth, sixth and seventh school years, their performance was compared with the performance of students in parallel classes who started their English tuition in the fifth grade.

The tests showed most significant differences in the knowledge of English in favour of those students who began their English classes in the third grade.

On the other hand, there were no differences in the two groups of students concerning their performance in arithmetic and German. It therefore follows that an earlier beginning of English tuition would have no adverse effect on performance in other subjects.

At the end of the five-year experiment, the students themselves considered the earlier study of English a gain (74 per cent). Parents, too, were in favour of English in the third grade (81 per cent). And even two-thirds of the parents whose children began English in the fifth grade were in favour of earlier English tuition.

A total of 97 per cent of the teachers who took part in the experiment favoured the earlier start. Of those teachers who had not taught third graders before, two-thirds were in favour.

Most of the teachers maintain, however, that the following conditions must be met: Only teachers with adequate linguistic and educational qualifications for the teaching of 8 to 10-year olds should be entrusted with the job; only if lessons in the fifth grade continue without a break at the level reached by the early starters is an efficient English tuition possible.

And finally, English tuition for early starters must be spread over the week in small units (in the experiment third graders were given 20 minutes a day during a five-day week, fourth graders received 30 minutes a day for four days and a full hour on the fifth day).

Burckhard Wiebe

(Lübbecker Nachrichten, 15 June 1977)

■ OUR WORLD

More children learning their 'mother tongue' from TV

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The German word for native tongue is *Muttersprache*, or the language we learn from our mothers, but according to linguists at Münster University children nowadays learn much of their vocabulary from the TV set.

Professor Walter Rest and a group of specialists in child lingustics at Münster teacher training college have just published the results of three years spent studying the problem.

In the past it has been deemed a matter of course that the children of parents with an above-average command of language are bound to fare better at school than children from families with lower educational standards.

This differential nowadays appears to have been offset in quantity, if not in quality, by the all-pervading influence of television.

Children from all manner of family backgrounds started school, much to the surprise of linguists engaged in the research project, with a extensive vocabulary based mainly, or so it seemed, on TV advertising slots and detective serials.

Children at a primary school in Münster were questioned and found, at the age of six, to have a far larger vocabulary than teachers had expected.

What is more, the words with which they were acquainted decidedly owned more to television than to what children used to learn from mother.

Professor Rest and his associates also reached another surprising conclusion. Their Münster schoolchildren were acquainted with more than 60,000 words of which 4,770 were different.

So between them these first-year schoolchildren knew 4,770 different words, of which 2,700 were clearly of the kind small children learn in conversation at home. A mere 570 words were unquestionably "school words" and the remaining, 500 could with equal ease be attributed to either category.

The inference is that in their first year at school children learn a mere 500 new words or so. The number steadily increases as children make their way through primary school, but the proportion of new words learnt from TV remains substantial.

There is, Professor Rest continues, a wider gap than ever between children's spoken language and the written language they learn at school, so much so that they might well be separate languages.

The written language taught at school is the vocabulary of a cameo world in which life is serene and somewhat unrealistic. The TV-tinged spoken language testifies to expressions of violence, advertising slogans and views and prejudices the children unquestioningly adopt from their elders.

Professor Rest is convinced that research into the language of schoolchildren is of substantial importance. Tension that arises at primary school as a result of linguistic difficulties can only be eliminated or reduced be means of careful field work and evaluations on which teachers can base their approach to the pupils.

Television may have served to bridge the quantitative gap between the word-power of children from different family backgrounds, but qualitative differences in the children's ability to express themselves remain.

Professor Rest and his fellow-linguists in Münster hope to conduct further research into these subtler differences.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 Ja 1977)

Alarming increase in children's emotional disturbances

An alarming increase in health and emotional disturbances among children and juveniles is felt to have taken place in recent years by the Health Education Institute, Stuttgart.

In an intermediate report on young people, narcotics, nicotine, alcohol and pep pills, not to mention juvenile suicide and emotional upsets, are claimed to be symptomatic of a tendency to overstimulate children and young people.

Children these days seem to in such dire emotional straits that it is high time schooling, upbringing and family background were thoroughly reappraised.

Doctors claim in the report that children are being overtaxed by family, emotional and religious problems, by loneliness, by the feeling of being just one of a herd at school, by school classes so large that teachers have no time to cultivate an individual relationship with each of their pupils.

The upshot is that children are restless, listless and disturbed in their educational and general development.

In 1975 roughly 100,000 school-leavers in the Federal Republic of Germany left school without qualifications of any kind. By next year the Stuttgart institute anticipates that this figure will have increased to 125,000.

All 125,000 are human tragedies – youngsters whose talents have been neglected because, with the emphasis on the three Rs, they have, right from the start of their school careers, been classified as failures.

Educationalists in several states have estimated, the report continues, that up to three out of ten schoolchildren are in need of special educational encouragement.

Doctors are particularly alarmed at the increasing intake of pep pills and tranquillisers by children and young people. Twenty-seven per cent of twelve-year-olds and 42 per cent of fourteen-year–olds also regularly drink alcohol at least three times a week.

Thirty-six per cent of six- to fourteen-year-olds smoke — either occasionally or regularly.

This, the Stuttgart report claims, may well be the harbinger of a catastrophe for both the country as a whole and the health authorities in particular.

So many juveniles under the age of sixteen have taken up smoking that by the time they reach the age of forty many of them are likely to suffer from incurable lung cancer.

Doctors also call on parents to ensure that their children do not eat too many sweets and generally live on a balanced diet. The 14.3 million children of school age between them spend 300 million deutschmarks a year on sweets and chocolate.

As a result two out of ten children are overweight and frequently suffer socially from being too fat.

The Stuttgart doctors note that a US survey has reached the conclusion that youngsters can only be taught effectively to change their entire outlook before they reach puberty.

So health education must concentrate on kindergarten and school and not just on the family.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 June 1977)

Continued from page 11

is concerned, although this, too, is not the case.

The teaching staff has always been free in presenting their subjects, and there have only been committee decisions concerning time-tables and the examination systems.

The Council says nothing about the fact that even before the *Hochschulrahmengesetz* (since a Constitutional Court ruling) the teaching staff of Berlin's universities has held half the votes concerning teaching matters and has carried considerable weight in decisions on qualifications.

The fact that present laws have led to a consolidation at Berlin's universities is also swept under the carpet.

Instead, the Council points to the danger that — through the *Hochschulrahmengesetz* — the group principle will be extended to all institutions of higher learning in the Federal Republic of Germany without explaining to the foreign readers of their report how these so-called group universities' committees will be structured under the terms of the *Hochschulrahmengesetz.*

If the teaching staff is to have the absolute majority in a 21-person body, they must be given at last 11 seats, which means that the remaining group of students, research staff and administrative staff would receive only 10 seats — in other words four seats each for research assistants and students and two seats for the administrative staff.

The International Council, which considers it meaningful that students should be represented in commitees, should clarify what effect four students representatives on such a committee can have in politicising a university, bearing in mind that the teaching staff has the absolute majority.

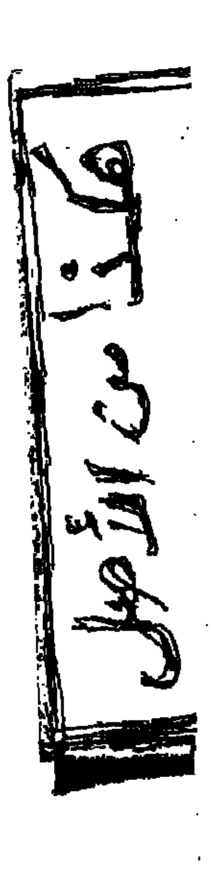
It would be most welcome if the Council were to remove distortions from its report before disseminating the English version throughout the world.

In Germany, too, politicians and university members — regardless of their political inclinations — embrace the principle of freedom, scientific objectivity and autonomy of universities.

Only a thorough analysis of the historic background can make it clear that the university reform is not at odds with logic and that the amendments introduced by it promote the very principles adhered to by the Council. So far, the Council's report cannot be deemed a scientific analysis.

Uwe Schlicht

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 June 1977)



Children the losers when TV dominates family life

Kojak and Cannon are well on their way to taking over as father figures in most households in this country. Families seem to spend most of their time watching TV, or so Frankfurt pollsters claim.

Psychologists employed by Psychata, a Frankfurt market research institute, observed the habits of 85 families on ten evenings on behalf of the Government and the country's major TV channels.

They discovered to their dismay that under the all-pervading influence of TV the family is no longer able to engage in meaningful conversation or even discuss problems, let alone solve them.

Psychologist Jochen Toussaint noted at a recent conference of youth welfare officers in Düsseldorf that "we find there are three kinds of families.

"The first category wages cold war along the lines of 'Sit down!' 'Watch TV!' and 'Shut up!' Were it not for the TV set the members of this kind of family would gun for each other sooner or later because they are no longer able to communicate with each other.

"In the second category of family, TV is the family's family's favourite game, and everyone can take part. Conversations invariably begin: 'Oh, that reminds me . . .' and any attempt at serious discussion would bring the game to an end.

"The third group consists of families in which only the man is entitled to decide which channel to watch. His wife and children are naturally less keen on their viewing because they are not allowed to take part in the TV game. They too suffer from a lack of family communication."

Jochen Toussaint has no doubt who the losers in this TV game are: the children. Children join the rest of the family when the others settle down for an evening's viewing because they feel the need for company, but the only activity the family seem to share is watching TV.

It hardly matters what the programmes are. Herr and Frau Average spend more than two and a half hours a day with their eyes glued to the screen.

Their programme selection amounts to a fairly rudimentary choice along the lines of "there's not much on Channel One, I wonder what's on the other channel" (eases behind from armchair and lopes off in the direction of the set to press the appropriate button).

The Frankfurt opinion poll reveals that parents (the 85 families questioned all had children aged sixteen or under) well appreciate that TV does the children no good, or at least is by no means entirely beneficial, but at the same time they appear convinced that this does not apply to their own offspring.

In the afternoon, Jochen Toussaint comments, mothers are only too relieved that children are busy watching TV while they have a chance to catch up with the housework.

Yet parents do not seem to worry what programmes their children watch and what effects their viewing may have, "and then they are surprised when the children suddenly behave in a manner for which they can find no explanation."

Dieter Bartel/dpa

(Die Welt, 24 June 1977)

■ MEDICINE

Latent fears the cause of most migraines, says psychiatrist

Chronic headaches and migraine are as widespread as they are hard to cure. The Federal Republic of Germany alone has some four to six million people suffering from these ailments.

Some headaches are attributable to physical reasons, such as side effects of an infectious disease or of brain tumour. But 90 per cent of headaches are due to psychosomatic causes for which we have no uniform therapeutic concept.

As Professor U.H. Peters of the Neuro-psychiatric University Clinic in Mainz put it at the recent German Congress for Supplementary Training in Berlin, headaches are in most instances a matter for psychiatrists since they are most frequently due to latent existential fears, according to latest findings.

The present medical concept, which has been subject to some criticism latterly, still considers migraine an ailment which is to some extent hereditary and esentially organic.

Headache clinics in London, New York and Chicago have been engaging in a strictly organic therapy, viewing emotional factors as mere components among the bundle of causes.

Theories of contracting and expanding blood vessels as well as biochemical elements dominate this school of thought.

This seems to be borne out by the relatively short duration of attacks and physical phenomena such as paleness, red spots on the skin, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps and passing neurological symptoms. But all this does not explain what causes migraine attacks and why they never lead to lasting pathological and anatomical changes.

There is no theory as yet that would explain all symptoms of migraine and that would be applicable in all cases.

The first promising experience with new forms of therapy has now been gathered at the Mainz pain clinic. An inter-disciplinary work group in which Professor Peters took part in his capacity as a psychiatrist treated migraine patients who had made all conceivable efforts to rid themselves of their pain.

The range of experience extended from repeated examinations with unpleasant diagnostic procedures all the way to acupuncture and surgery.

The personal history of the patients provided no clues. They all had normal family lives, had no particular problems and were satisfied with their jobs. Says Professor Peters: "The only thing conspicuous about them was that they were so thoroughly inconspicuous."

Although we know from experience that emotional disturbances can trigger a migraine attack, the pain itself can by no means always be linked with its psychological triggering event. The question thus arises whether a particular type of person is prone to migraine.

Professor Peters established in tests involving 50 people under observation in a headache clinic of the Neuro-psychiatric University Clinic in Mainz that they all had similar personality traits.

In fact, these similarities were so marked that a special terms was created, namely *typus migraenicus.* This is not a rigid type-casting but a set of character traits which the individual uses as a defence mechanism against fears.

This means that the *typus migraenicus* is not hereditary. Instead, it only comes to the fore in accordance with emotional needs and by no means with the same intensity at all times. In fact, the *typus migraenicus* need not necessarily lead to migraine attacks, but can bring about other psychosomatic disturbances and depressions whenever emotional anguish remains uncompensated for.

This theory explains the conspicuous "normalcy" of migraine patients. The patient is considered by his environment as an out-and-out pleasant person since he has many of the qualities which society considers positive. Little of his emotional conflicts becomes outwardly noticeable.

The *typus migraenicus* is sensitive and not particularly self-confident; he is orderly and rather meticulous in his behaviour.

When overtaxed by work and responsibility he does not resist, but is in fact grateful for the confidence placed in him, which strengthens his weak ego and allays his fears. He thus unconsciously brings about the stress situations on which be blames his headaches.

Many successful people fall in this category since their ambition to perform beyond reproach is rewarded socially. But their unbridled activity serves as a defence mechanism against fears. This becomes obvious in situations where inactivity is foisted upon them — as for instance on weekends — when the patient reacts with migraine attacks or depressions.

A purely symptomatic treatment of migraine attacks is therefore only useful where these attacks are few and far between, in other words when the psyche manages to cope with them from its own resources. In all other cases a therapy aimed at dissolving tensions (including physical and psycho-therapeutic measures) is called for.

Painful muscle cramps can be treated by gently massaging, which should take place as soon as possible after the first symptoms have occurred. The treatment is usually effective after about 30 minutes.

Due to the fact that migraine attacks frequently occur in the morning and have usually disappeared after the patient has had a good night's sleep, the patients in Mainz were initially subjected to a no-sleep therapy.

The reasons for this was that group therapy and physical training were intended to resolve tensions and fears. This method of treatment improved the general condition — although in some instance with some delay.

In order to deprive stubborn migraine of its basis it is necessary, according to Professor Peters, to restructure the patient's outlook on a long-term basis in a close relationship with a qualified therapist.

The physician must be a stabilising factor for the patient, thus enabling him to gradually resolve hidden existential fears and conflicts.

Once these fears have disappeared, migraine attacks, too, become more rare and finally disappear altogether. Although time-consuming, this therapy is worthwhile in the long run.

Margot Behrends

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 June 1977)

Laser beams used to stop bleeding and heal wounds

Since the discovery some 17 years ago that electro-magnetic rays in their interplay with matter can be strengthened on a certain frequeny, laser beams have achieved a tremendous importance.

Parallel laser beams can be focussed on extremely small areas with a very high density of energy. This has made them a most helpful and frequently irreplaceable instrument in such a wide range of fields as welding technology, medicine, data recording and environment protection. The recent "Laser 77" exhibition in Munich provided a comprehensive review of laser technology today. There were 17 exhibitors from 13 countries.

At the same time, the *Gesellschaft für Strahlen- und Umweltforschung* (GSF) — Society for Ray and Environment Research — an institution of the Government, held a symposium on "Lasers in Medicine and Biology" which took stock of a research project which the Ministry for Research and Technology subsidised to the tune of DM8.9 million and which has been in progress since 1974.

Within the framework of this project, scientists examined in 26 individual experiments to which extent the use of laser beams can be helpful in the various branches of medicine for both therapy and diagnosis. They also examined what technical instruments would be necessary and what dangers are inherent in the use of laser beams.

Once laboratory and animal tests were completed the scientists proceeded to carry out clinical tests and promote the industrial development of suitable instruments for routine use in medicine.

Thus for instance the Second Medical University Clinic in Munich developed a procedure- and tested it on patients — by which to stem severe haemorrhages of the oesophagus, the stomach and the intestines by means of laser beams. In this procedure, a flexible gastroscope (an instrument with which the interior of the stomach can be inspected) is inserted, which permits the laser beam to be directed exactly at the point of haemorrhage.

The successful tests with human beings were preceded by animal tests at the Laboratory for Laser Surgery of the GSF. Laser beams have also proved successful as an additional instrument in microsurgery and in the elimination of bladder tumours.

Promising progress has also been made in the use of laser for the healing of wounds.

Stimulated by successes achieved in Budapest with the healing of wounds by means of a helium-neon laser, the GSF Department for Coherent Optics, in conjunction with a general practitioner, also carried out experiments with wounds.

There were some impressive photographs on this subject on exhibit at "Laser 77".

On of them showed a boil on the leg of a woman patient which developed three months before the laser therapy and which, despite treatment, had reached a size of 14.5 square centimetres. After 25 painless laser treatments the wound was virtually healed.

But laser does not only have its uses in medicine. It has also proved beneficial in the plastics and oil industry, the pharmaceutical industry and in environment protection in the form of laser microparticle analysing.

This system can be used in all cases where large quantities of particles or cells of differing sizes have to be counted, measured and analysed. Thus for instance blood banks can examine stock prior to use to establish whether there are clots in evidence. This was not possible before the advent of lasers.

There was also an instrument for the automatic measuring of blood components by means of laser on exhibit. While traditional methods require two hours to come up with results, the new instrument needs but a few minutes. Five hundred comparative measurements proved that the new method comes up with the same diagnostic results as traditional methods. Moreover, it was possible to analyse 50 blood samples which could not be clearly analysed otherwise.

Microscope focusing by means of laser facilitates the mass examination of specimens. This method eliminates the necessity of focusing the microscope by hand for each individual specimen. All that is needed is the push of a button.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 June 1977)

■ OUR WORLD

Fifth generation of 'mechanical man' already on the drawing-board

Hundreds of thousands of jobs in Europe are to be filled by industrial robots in the eighties. The new branch of industry thus wants to humanise work. But at the same time it will of course create redundancies.

At present Europe's industry "employs" some 2,000 of these steel monsters.

The waiter who poured the frothing beer for the students gathered in the hall was a robot by the name of Trallfa, and his apron was of steel. This scene, which could have come straight out of a science-fiction novel, took place recently at Stuttgart's Technical University and was intended as a demonstration of the precision of work performed by robots.

Trallfa, a Norwegian product, is not alone. He has numerous fellow-workers by now; but most of them work as welders and painters in industry rather than serving beer.

The industrial robot has long ceased to be utopian and has become a reality watched with a great deal of mistrust on the part of the trade unions.

At present some 2,000 "colleagues" of Trallfa's, made by 40 manufacturers from many nations ranging from Japan to the United States, hammer, weld, spray-paint and sort various goods in Europe's industry.

These so-called industrial robots of the first and second generation work at the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg, at Presswerk Kokfeld or at the Motorenfabrik Kokkums Jernverks AB in Kallinge-Ronneby, Sweden.

In Japan, which is the leader in the new technology, many foundries have been largely automated by means of robots. And at the Jena glassworks in Mainz robots handle the fragile goods of that factory.

Among the manufacturers of robots are the Swiss Prometag AG in Regensdorf, Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart, Industriewerke Karlsruhe, the Volkswagen Works in Wolfsburg, the Japanese firm Kawaguchi Ltd., the US companies Unimation and AMF Versatran, the Italian Norda SPA, the English Metal Box Ltd., the Norwegian firm Tesa and the Swedish Kaufeldt AB.

According to a higherto classified industrial study, some 420,000 jobs in the Federal Republic of Germany alone are suitable for robots.

This is only two per cent of jobs in this country. But should it be possible to automate the sorting and the clamping down of the material to be worked on and to carry out controls by specialised staff or automatically, robots could replace 35 per cent of our labour force.

According to the study, it is technically perfectly feasible to design all new machines in such a way that they can be operated by robots.

In another classified study – this time of the European robot market — the American market researchers Frost and Sullivan arrived at the conclusion that the present market volume of 70 million Swiss francs per annum could rapidly be expanded.

They speak of figures in the region of 1,300 million Swiss francs per annum by 1985 as perfectly feasible. Added to this would be another 4,200 million Swiss francs for robots of the next generation which would not only have efficient sensors with which to recognise various objects, but would be equipped with a computer "mind", enabling them to replace highly qualified personnel.

Another study by the Stuttgart university professor Hans-Jürgen Warnecke – formerly an executive at the Brunswick camera manufacturers Rollei — does not share these optimistic views.

Professor Warnecke's Institute for Industrial Manufacture and Factory Management believes that it will take longer to develop this third generation of robots.

The Stuttgart robotologist pins his hopes on the development of programme-controlled industrial robots with efficient sensors because research and development are somewhat stagnating at present, following the initial euphoria. Even so, the market volume forecast by Professor Warnecke is similar to that of Messrs Frost and Sullivan. Researchers and manufacturers will meet for their eighth international symposium from 21 to 23 January 1978 in Stuttgart (the seventh symposium is to be held in Tokyo this coming October). The symposium will be attended by the elite of the new science. According to bulletins issued by robotologists, they have devoted themselves to the new technology because industrial robots will "greatly contribute towards humanising work." A great number of jobs, such as the sorting and assembling of parts — uninteresting occupations which hardly test Man's mental capacity — could be automated as a result of this development. The same applies to dirty jobs, which are to be increasingly done by machines.

According to robotologists, this humanisation of work is primarily aimed at making Man do jobs which are in keeping with his abilities, which provide him with a scope of decision, awaken his interest and provide him with a better opportunity of realising himself at work.

This applies above all to such branches of industry as foundries, sheet-metal works and the manufacture of component parts. Incidentally, these are also the jobs with the highest accident rates (about 300 accidents per 1,000 employees).

The robot is thus to be used primarily in manufacturing processes involving work with noxious substances and exposure to noise, heat and unbalanced physical strain. It is to replace heavy physical work and do away with short work-cycles.

In other words, the robot is to replace Man in jobs where occupational diseases and accidents are the order of the day.

According to robotologists, the social clashes of tomorrow will in any event revolve not so much around wages as around aspects such as safety, promotion and scope of decision at work.

Japan is at present the undisputed leader where the new technology is concerned. There, robots already have their established place in foundries, welding processes and spray-painting. According to Japanese experts, the range of uses for robots will shortly expand enormously.

This is due to the development of industrially usable and economical sensors as well as the use of mini-computers.

Many research laboratories and industrial companies in the Far East are therefore developing industrial robots at a stepped-up pace.

In Europe, the emphasis still lies on technical simplifications: Thus for instance, Professor Warnecke's Institute is engaged in work on the development of simplifications that would make the use of robots increasingly more economical, as for instance in cases where the sensors developed by foreign competitors have proved too costly. The American Stanford Research Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have done pioneer work in the field of sensors. But Kawasaki Heavy Industries and the Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in Japan have also done a yeoman's job in developing and perfecting optical systems capable of recognising shapes. Robots equipped with sensors can keep pace with any human worker in production processes, and their performance is always at peak because they do not tire.

The pure hardware cost of the Kawasaki system is estimated at 60,000 Swiss francs, but the managers of Kawasaki hope to be able to reduce costs soon. They are particularly interested in doing so because the cost of adapting the environment of a machine to robot operation is roughly the same again.

Among Germany's most interesting recent robots are the so-called PPI-PM 12 made by the Pfaff-Pietzsch Industrieroboter GmbH and the VW industrial robot whose outstanding features are the minimal space requirement and a mini-computer control as well as the potential for further development. The VW management is meanwhile considering establishing a separate robot company.

Feasibility studies made by the German Work Group for Operational Systems arrived at the conclusion that notwithstanding the high purchase cost of a robot (about DM200,000) their use is economically feasible.

Although changes and adaptations of machines would cost another DM160,000, the robot would replace three men each in two shifts, thus saving DM212,000 in annual labour costs.

The study arrived at two startling figures: A robot would pay for itself within 1.42 years and would yield a profit on capital invested of 50.05 per cent per annum. Therefore, the more wages increase, the more does the cost relation robot-man shift in favour of the robot.

On paper, however, robotologists have progressed much further. They are already occupying themselves with the fifth generation of robots. According to them, mechanical man would then have the ability to improve his work constantly from his own resources.

Professor Warnecke jokingly described this process as follows: A robot gets his driver's licence and from then on he improves his driving performance constantly. But by then Man might have been forced to do away with the automobile altogether.

Henry Mogah

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 26 June 1977)



Robots helping children across the road . . .



. . . and demonstrating skiing techniques (Photos: dpa)

■ SPORT

We did well in South America, says national soccer coach Schön

DIE ZEIT

Asked what he had learnt from the national soccer squad's tour of South America in preparation for next year's World Cup tournament in Argentina, chief coach Helmut Schön was at no loss for an answer.

"We shall be sticking to our own style of play and trying to maintain an equally good record in attack and defence," Schön said.

"In 1972, when the team won the European championships, our football was, perhaps, more attractive, more brilliant than at present. In 1974, when we won the World Cup in Munich, the team was both experienced and successful.

"But the squad that played so well in South America beating Argentina 3:1 and Uruguay 2:0 and drawing one-all with Brazil and two-all with Mexico over a period of ten days, did not fare at all badly.

"There may not have been the highlights and surprises that were the hallmark of Franz Beckenbauer, but each and every member of the current squad shouldered more responsibility.

"As a result many players showed greater self-confidence and greater readiness to take the initiative. Think, for instance, of the performances of Rüdiger Abramczik, Manfred Kaltz and Bernd Hölzenbein on the South American tour."

Helmut Schön was no doubt making a virtue out of necessity.

While Franz Beckenbauer was captain (he played his last game for the national team, his 103rd cap, only a couple of months ago before transferring from Bayern Munich to the New York Cosmos), Kaiser Franz issued the orders, and no one was arguing, since more often than not they achieved the desired results.

Now Beckenbauer is no longer available to mastermind team tactics Helmut Schön is stressing the value of each and every member of the team — and rightly so.

"Our approach to the game has grown more level-headed, the fighting spirit is more in evidence," he reckons. "Which is not to say, of course, that the 1972 and 1974 teams were unable to pull out all the stops when the need arose, but the present squad are prepared to play their hearts out from the moment the game starts."

Schön is at pains to emphasise that there has been no change in the team's overall style of play, merely in minor details.

The two crucial fixtures on the South American tour were those against Argentina and Brazil, both of which are highly fancied to challenge this country in its bid to retain the World Cup next year.

Both games bore out another of Helmut Schön's maxims, that success will depend on the cornerstones of the approach to the game he and his teams have evolved over the years. These cornerstones are marking the man providing sound defensive backing.

"Against Argentina Bernd Hölzenbein put in more mileage than a long-distance runner in a month of Sundays, while Erich Beer soldiered on to the brink of exhaustion in midfield, and I hardly need add what a terrier Rainer Bonhof is."

All three happen to be midfield players, the men who link the forwards and the backs, but there can be no mistaking what Helmut Schön expects from his players. If you don't play your heart out you will soon be out on your ear.

Berti Vogts, the new captain, announced: "We will make mincemeat of them." What he meant was that each member of the team was under orders to mark, tackle and cover his allotted opponent whatever the cost.

Helmut Schön will hear nothing of objections that this approach to the game is alarmingly reminiscent of the power play of the past.

He argues that any team which combines high speed, precision passing and control of both the ball and the opposition is bound to make good use of technique. Schön reckons the team proved the point against Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

In Argentina, Helmut Schön claims, the crowd were delighted by the man-to-man soccer the visiting team played, while in Brazil the home team were put well out of their stride.

"The South American sides increasingly argued among themselves as the game progressed, which is a sure sign that they were losing both their grip on the game and the understanding that welds a team out of eleven individual soccer players.

"When a team is in disarray the players are more likely to throw in the towel — but not my lads!" Schön can certainly be sure of his squad on this point.

"Even in Mexico, where the final match was played on a waterlogged pitch that required the utmost in body control and every last ounce of will-power and muscle, the team did not scale down for a moment the pace of either attack or defence."

Helmut Schön is evidently proud of his present squad, "the members of which, with the odd exception, will all be Argentina-bound for next year's World Cup tournament."

The preliminary squad of forty players will be nominated at the end of April 1978, with the final 22 being named in June, a week before the deadline.

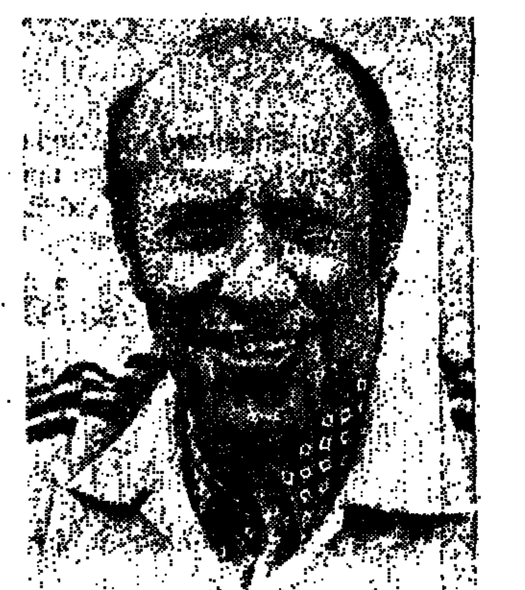
Schön does not look forward at all to making this invidious selection. He knows only too well how keen all the players he has approached are to play in the World Cup squad and how seriously they are all taking their preparations for the forthcoming season of club soccer.

"The South American tour proved to me yet again how crucial the team's attitude is. Profit and prestige may both be more important considerations than they used to be, but in the final analysis the football is what counts.

"Young players and newcomers to the national squad, such as Klaus Fischer, Rüdiger Abramczik and Manfred Kaltz, have gained personal experience of what it is like to reach the top of the tree, and all of them will have realised that even at international level you are not left to your own devices.

"Indeed, team spirit and cohesion have seldom been as good as they were at the end of this tour, and the fine performances of the newcomers are a sure sign that they gained in self-confidence because they were immediately accepted as team-mates by the old hands."

Helmut Schön dismisses as minor problems the tension that may arise between individual players contesting a single position on the field, rivals such as Heinz Flohe and Dieter Müller of Cologne, for instance. "I have told both players that as far as I am concerned they are both sure of a place in the squad as things stand."



Helmut Schön

(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Coming from Helmut Schön these words mean an unusual gesture of confidence and virtual certainty that both players will be selected, depending on who the opponets are.

Between now and the 1978 World Cup tournament fixtures are lined up against Italy, Brazil, England and the Soviet Union, amongst others, and these fixtures will be used to give the team an opportunity of getting used to playing together and perfecting tried and trusted techniques.

"The players all bring determination and versatility with them from club footbal.. All I need to do is to convert this potential into teamwork and to prepare the team for the next opponent.

"I aim to bring may career as chief coach to a successful conclusion in Argentina. The tour of South America has left me feeling we stand a fair chance of defending the World Cup title."

Jürgen Werner

(Die Zeit, 1 July 1977)

Daniela Gruber bowls over her opponents in Helsinki

Daniela Gruber, national ten-pin champion, clinched two team titles and a silver in the doubles plus a bronze in the singles at the European bowling championships in Helsinki.

Daniela, a delectable thirty-year-old blonde from Munich, was not only the most successful contestant from this country; she was also the most successful individual competitor at the championships.

"Everything was just right," she says. "The hotel was quiet, the championship venue was most impressive and the tournament was run swiftly and efficiently."

After this fulsome praise of the Finnish hosts she adds what was probably the real reason why this country fared so well at Helsinki. "We all pulled together. The fighting spirit of each and every team member could hardly have been improved on."

The Scandinavian countries and Italy were the favourites to win this year's European championships, but it was no coincidence that this country came first in the medal stakes. "The intensive preparations proved well worthwhile," Daniela Gruber reckons.

Preparations for Helsinki began in 1975 after the world championships in London. For the past two seasons coaches Gerth Bettinger of Stuttgart and Franz Oswald of Nuremberg have given the team "homework" in addition to a succession of training courses at which they prepared for the European title bid.



Daniela Gruber

(Photo: Werek)

Daniela Gruber took up bowling more or less by coincidence, having been invited out by friends. But she took to ten-pin like a duck to water. She won her first Bavarian championship title as a junior back in 1966.

She has since notched up one title after another, including nine Bavarian championships, five national championships, two silver medals at the 1973 European championships in Dublin and a bronze medal at the 1975 world championships in London. Plus the titles she bagged at Helsinki, of course.

She would now like her club to do well in the Bundesliga, or first division, especially now that Weiss-Blau Munich have just gained promotion. But her personal long-term objective is the 1979 world championships in Manila.

Daniela puts in a hard day's work in the family cafe, but whenever she can spare an hour or two she gets in a training session. Talent alone is not enough at the top; a tough training schedule is essential.

She has no lack of personality, but is not given to exaggeration. Daniela Gruber, who was born in Padua, Italy, is engagingly modest, reckoning that the secret of her success is probably that she so thoroughly enjoys her bowling.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 June 1977)